

Angry Kinnock plans to rewrite rules to pursue charges against left

Militants in walk-out to foil expulsion

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Liverpool's Militants outsmarted and outmanoeuvred the Labour leadership yesterday in a humiliating defeat which ended with a Trotskyist MP leading a raised-fist chorus of the *Internationale* and the *Red Flag* on the steps of party headquarters.

The 12 party members charged with abuse of party rules and membership of the Militant tendency escaped expulsion through a combination of legal challenge and a premeditated left-wing walk-out from a meeting of the party's national executive.

What had been intended as a show trial, at least partly for the benefit of the voters in the Fulham by-election, ended in a shambles.

But an angry Mr Neil Kinnock immediately declared his firm intention to pursue the charges laid against Mr Derek Hutton, the deputy leader of Liverpool council, and 11 other Militants, by re-writing the national executive rules to give him the required majority for expulsions — on April 18, a week after Fulham has gone to the polls.

He said: "What everybody in Fulham and everywhere else can be absolutely conscious of we will act with firmness and very directly in order to deal with abuses. People everywhere can be sure that the Labour Party is doing the right thing in the right way, and we will have the required effect."

However, in the wake of Tuesday's High Court judgment that eight members of the executive who had taken evidence against the accused in Liverpool could not participate in yesterday's hearings against the Militant 12, the executive was left with just 21 members to examine the charges.

Mr Eric Heffer, himself a Liverpool MP, and Mr Tony Benn, then led a walk-out of seven left-wingers and the executive was left without the required 15-strong quorum. The hearings were forced to halt.

Mr Heffer said in a prepared statement outside the headquarters building in south London that they had withdrawn because the first accused, Miss Felicity Dowling, secretary of the Liverpool District Labour Party, had been refused a clear written statement of the charges laid against her — "in clear breach of the rules of natural justice" — and because the purge exercise had "inflicted grave, and wholly unnecessary damage upon the party".

Mr Kinnock, who later variously condemned the walk-out as sabotage, desertion of duty, capricious, pathetic, infantile and stupid, said that it was "profoundly not true" — "deliberately misleading" — to suggest that Miss Dowling had not been given a written statement of charges.

He said of those who left the executive: "The party and the movement will regard them with derision. This melodramatic behaviour is an acknowledgement of the weakness of their position."

A furious Mr David Blunkett, the left-wing leader of Sheffield council who stood by Mr Kinnock during the walk-out, told executive colleagues: "They have put their ego before the interests of the party."

Miss Betty Boothroyd, one of those who remained, continued on page 20, col 6



Mr Eric Heffer (right) and Mr Tony Benn leading the walk-out of the National Executive Committee meeting in London yesterday. Below, Mr Derek Hutton and Mr Tony Mulhearn.

Gorbachov offers to withdraw fleet

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In a dramatic gesture designed to seize the propaganda initiative from the US over the Libyan crisis, Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, last night offered to open immediate talks with the Reagan Administration designed to secure the withdrawal of all Soviet and US naval vessels from the Mediterranean.

The surprise Soviet offer was made during a Kremlin dinner in honour of Mr Chadi Benjedid, the visiting Algerian President, who brought the Soviet leader a personal message from Colonel Gaddafi. It was combined with a savage denunciation of the "bandit face" of US policy over Libya.

Mr Gorbachov, who was making his first public comment since the US attacks on Libyan ships and missile sites, also formally proposed the staging of a regional Mediterranean conference attended by both superpowers, which he said could be run along similar lines to the 1975 European Security Conference in Helsinki.

Mr Gorbachov's speech seemed to Western diplomats to be designed once again to represent the Soviet Union as the superpower more concerned in furthering the cause of world peace. Unofficial US sources conceded that, as often before in the past year, the Gorbachov offer would force the White House to offer what was confidently expected to be a negative response. They were quick to point out that the US has a much larger and more important naval role in the Mediterranean.

Outlining his scheme, Mr Gorbachov said: "If the United States, which is situated thousands upon thousands of miles away from the

Mediterranean, pulled its fleet out of there, the Soviet Union would simultaneously do the same. We are prepared without delay to enter talks on the issue."

In his speech, Mr Gorbachov also detailed other Soviet proposals for building confidence in the region.

The United Nations Security Council agreed to meet last night to consider the crisis in the Mediterranean. The meeting was requested by Malta and the Soviet Union. There was no US objection (Reuter reports from New York).

These included pledges by all nuclear powers not to deploy their weapons in non-nuclear Mediterranean countries.

The conciliatory tone of the "initiative" came in marked contrast to the bitter language used by Mr Gorbachov during his lengthy speech to condemn what he described as a recent US aggression against Libya. He described the events there this week as a "punitive" operation planned and conceived in advance.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan reportedly approved a plan to engage Libyan forces in the Gulf of Sirte after receiving intelligence reports that Colonel Gaddafi was attempting to identify US overseas diplomats for possible terrorist attacks (Christopher Thomas writes).

White House officials were quoted yesterday as saying that the reports from the Middle East and Southern Europe constituted one reason why Mr Reagan approved the US naval manoeuvres in the Gulf.

Bar victory spurs hope for barrister pay body

The High Court battle begun by the Bar ended in a humiliating climbdown for the Lord Chancellor yesterday in a result which paves the way for a possible doubling of the 5 per cent pay offer rejected by barristers (Frances Gibb writes).

The Bar's victory in the unprecedented dispute over legal aid fees is also likely to signal the end of the present system of direct negotiation between the legal profession and the Government.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, chairman of the Bar, said that there was now a need for an advisory committee on fees, similar to that for doctors, which was recommended by the Royal Commission on Legal Services in 1979.

A body was needed to ensure an objective evaluation of what pay was needed to "preserve our standards of justice", he said.

Yesterday's legal proceedings, in which the Bar accused Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone of acting unlawfully, ended with the Lord Chancellor agreeing to negotiate a 30 to 40 per cent pay claim.

After consultation with Cabinet colleagues, he is to have talks within a set timetable, reaching a decision by July 16, the High Court was told.

Battle of the Bar, page 5

Militant aims to double members

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Trotskyist Militant Tendency has set itself the target of doubling its membership, which now stands at 8,100 hard-core members, according to a secret internal document leaked to ITN's Channel 4 News last night.

The Militant central committee document claimed that the expulsion of five leaders by Mr Michael Foot in 1983 gave a big boost to membership.

And in a clear attempt to capitalize on the attempts at a Liverpool purge, the document added: "The task is posed point-blank: doubling our size."

"Our immediate aim is to reach the agreed target within the next three months."

While it is a known Militant technique to set unachievable targets, its steady increase in membership — from less than 2,000 up to 1980 to 3,438 in 1982, 6,000 in 1984 and more than 8,000 this year — has proved its success.

But Channel 4 News also provided further evidence of Militant's highly structured organization — something which is denied by the Trotskyists operating behind the front of the *Militant* newspaper — with a tape recording of a secret Militant meeting in Swansea on Tuesday night.

During the meeting, members of a Swansea Militant branch were told to recruit another hundred members.

Mr Ian McDonald, a full-time Militant organizer, was recorded as telling the meeting: "Really, all basically recruitment is, is asking a person to join the revolutionary party."

"And all you are doing is putting across the policies of this tendency, the aims of this tendency in a clear manner, enthusing them and then asking them to join."

"But we will say this, and it is being said by the full-timers; they are not going to be responsible for the recruiting of this one hundred. The branch are going to have to recruit."

● Militant-run Liverpool is heading towards financial chaos, a report warned yesterday.

The district auditor, Mr Tim McMahon, says that the council's affairs are "seriously out of hand".

And he said that urgent steps need to be taken to change the present style of management.

In a 47-page report sent to every Liverpool councillor Mr McMahon details millions of pounds lost through mismanagement.

The council's Militant-dominated Labour leadership is blamed for much of the recent problems.

"The traditional needs of considering, reporting and debating decisions of importance are not now being followed", Mr McMahon said.

Poll shows 15% drop in support for Tories

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Government has suffered a potentially disastrous slump in electoral support in the three Conservative constituencies where it faces key by-elections, according to a poll last night.

In Fulham, where polling takes place on April 10, together with Ryedale and West Derbyshire, the Conservatives have dropped by 15% on average since the 1983 General Election.

Labour is the main beneficiary, with an average 10% increase, while backing for the SDP/Liberal Alliance in the three seats has increased by 5% since 1983, according to a detailed survey for BBC Television's *Newsnight* programme.

The political reality now facing Mrs Thatcher is that the Tories look certain to lose Fulham in two weeks time; they are in serious danger of being defeated in West Derbyshire, a Conservative seat since 1950, and the party cannot be absolutely sure of holding Ryedale, where Conservative support has never dipped below 50% at general elections since the war.

The survey, carried out after last week's Budget, shows voting intentions (with 1983 figures in brackets) as follows: Fulham: Con 36.7% (46.2%); Lab 44.1% (34.0%); Alliance 23.4% (18.3%); Others 1.8% (1.5%). Ryedale: Con 47.2% (59.2%); Lab 16.9% (10.3%); Alliance 35.2% (30.5%); Others 0.7% West Derbyshire: Con 38.8% (55.9%); Lab 28.7% (17.1%); Alliance 31.6% (27.1%); Others 0.9%.

Dates for the by-elections at Ryedale and West Derbyshire are yet to be set.

David Butler, page 16

Oil hits trade figures

By Our City Staff

The oil price fall pushed Britain's trade in goods back into deficit last month, but left the current account still in surplus to the tune of £262 million.

Exports fell and imports rose in value terms to give a visible trade deficit of £338 million, converted into surplus by an estimated £600 million surplus on invisibles such as services.

The biggest deterioration was in the oil account, where the surplus dropped by more than £300 million to £685 million. Manufacturers stayed in heavy deficit at £382 million.

The figures had little effect on the foreign exchange market.

Details, page 21

Lost cave of Cheddar discovered by divers

By Tim Jones

A team of three divers have overcome physical and psychological dangers to discover what they believe to be the most spectacular underground cave system in Britain and one of the longest in the world.

Their most exciting find is a 100 feet wide chamber which may be the legendary "lost cave of Cheddar" which has tantalized explorers for decades.

Cavers have searched for the way down into the underground River Yeo for six years and in the end the entrance and in the end the entrance was proved to be just a few feet from the show cave at Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, which is visited by 750,000 each year.

The three men, who exposed themselves to the risks of diving in darkness through subterranean passages, yesterday planned to press on through the system which may extend for three miles.

As he prepared to venture further into the claustrophobic unknown, Mr Richard Stephenson, aged 39, of Woolkey, Somerset, explained why no one had dived to the cave before.

"It just looked like a puddle, you have to go down a very thin 20 foot chimney and then an even narrower 50 foot chimney before it opens out into a cave."

He was accompanied by Mr Rob Harper, aged 32, a Bristol vet, and Mr Rob Palmer, aged 35, who has explored the legendary "Blue Holes" in the Bahamas.

The cave they have discovered is 100 feet wide by 20 feet by 40 feet high.

Yesterday, the team was planning to dive and emerge into a second chamber which they believe could reveal a two-mile passage from the top of the Mendip Hills.

Adventure diving leader, Mr Andy Sparrow, aged 31, who masterminded the dive said: "The water coming off the Mendips splits into several separate caves which eventually become choked up and they converge into master caves full of foaming white water. We are hoping to find one of these master caves like the one at Woolkey Hole."

Mrs Sandra Lee, who manages the Cheddar caves described the find as the most exciting made in Britain in recent years. "The existence of

27 blacks dead as Pretoria violence flares

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

At least 27 people, all blacks, died during Tuesday night and yesterday morning in the most concentrated outbreak of violence in the 19 months of political and social unrest in South Africa which has claimed more than 1,250 lives.

In the tribal homeland of Bophuthatswana, the local black police said they had killed 10 people when they fired on a large crowd attending an illegal gathering which allegedly responded to an order to disperse by hurling stones and petrol bombs. Local residents said that 11 people were killed.

At least 10 people were reported injured, and about 1,000 arrested. Local residents claimed the meeting had been called to discuss grievances with the district police commander, Colonel M A Molope, who had himself addressed the crowd. The shooting, they said, started after stones were thrown.

The shooting happened at about 11 am in a shanty town called Winterveld, about 20 miles northwest of Pretoria and just inside the boundary of one of the seven separate and widely-scattered chunks of territory that form Bophuthatswana, which, under South African law, is an independent state.

Winterveld is a place of appalling squalor which has been used by the Government as a dumping ground for people forcibly uprooted from "black spots" in nearby areas of "white" South Africa. Most of its inhabitants are not Tsuanas, the tribal group for which Bophuthatswana is supposed to be reserved.

There has been growing turbulence in the region in recent weeks, and police in the nearby town of Garankuwa, also in Bophuthatswana, have been accused of whipping, beating, kicking and raping people detained by them for questioning.

Members of the Roman Catholic church and trade unionists have been particular targets of police brutality.

In the black township of Kwazakale, near Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, the police said they shot dead 10 people overnight in action

to quell two separate outbreaks of mob violence. A man who was shot and wounded died later in hospital.

In the bloodiest incident, eight youths were killed when the police opened fire on rioters who attacked a bottle store. Two youths died when the police retaliated with gunfire against a crowd stoning and petrol-bombing their vehicles.

Stoning and petrol-bombing of police vehicles was also reported from the Crossroads squatter camp outside Cape Town where the police killed two youths in counter-attack. The police also said that five "heavy calibre shots" were fired at private and police vehicles.

It was in the same area on Monday that two policemen were killed. One, a white policeman who had been suspended for involvement in drug dealing, was shot and burnt to death. The second, a black, was shot through the head when the police went to investigate the first death.

In Kagiso township, near Krugersdorp, northwest of Johannesburg, a black youth was killed when security guards used shotguns to disperse a mob attacking a beer hall during Tuesday night.

The police also reported that two black men were killed by the method known as "the necklace" — a rubber tyre doused in petrol which is placed round the victim's neck and set alight — in different parts of Natal province. In the same area as one of these killings, a child was also found stabbed to death by unknown assailants, according to the police.

● Banned lifted: The South African Government has released three more people from banning orders, which place severe restrictions on the affected person's movements and prohibit his or her participation in political activities.

They are Mr Johnny Issel and Mr Trevor Manuel, two anti-apartheid campaigners in the Cape Town area, and Mr Rowley Arenstein, a former attorney in Durban, who had been under some form of banning for more than 30 years.

'Knocking' ads banned

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

A City watchdog body attempted to crack down yesterday on the growing use of hard-hitting newspaper advertising during company takeover battles.

The Takeover Panel ordered a substantial restriction on advertisements connected with takeovers, complaining of their growing tendency to denigrate the opposition and to use selective statistics to create a misleading impression.

Provisions were being introduced to try to restore standards, the panel said, and ban the kind of "knocking copy" that had become a feature of takeover battles.

If this failed to have the required effect, further restrictions would be introduced.

Details, page 21

If you've got money, what are you worried about?

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The Times will publish on Good Friday, the only quality national daily newspaper to do so. More copies than usual will be printed, but the demand will be substantial, so readers are urged to place a firm order for *The Times* with their newsagents now. An order form appears on page 2

Mrs Thatcher on the future



In an exclusive interview, the Prime Minister talks of the Government's present troubles and what lies in store for BL, popular capitalism... and her own political career

Portfolio £20,000 to be won tomorrow

There was no winner yesterday in *The Times* Portfolio competition so today's prize is doubled to £4,000. Portfolio list, page 26; how to play, information service, page 20. Tomorrow, £20,000 can be won in the weekly competition. There is no Saturday game because the Stock Exchange will be closed. Portfolio will resume on Tuesday.

England win

A goal by Waddle gave England a 1-0 win against the Soviet Union. Report, page 40

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Elite police gun squad sought after shootings

By Craig Seton

Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, agreed yesterday to examine a proposal that his force should replace "part-time" marksmen with an elite firearms unit on permanent stand-by.

A special committee of the Labour-controlled West Midlands Police Authority called for the establishment of a special firearms team after accusing the force of a "shocking record" in incidents involving innocent people in which police marksmen had fired weapons.

The committee was established last August to investigate the police use of firearms after the fatal shooting of John Shorthouse, aged five, during a police raid on his parents' home in Birmingham.

Police Constable Brian Chester, a member of the West Midlands tactical firearms squad, has been charged with his manslaughter.

The report, issued yesterday, detailed five firearms incidents since 1979 when Miss Gail Kinchin, a pregnant girl aged 16, was killed by police bullets after her boyfriend used her as a shield.

Mr Dear said the proposal for an elite squad had considerable merit and he was willing to give it full consideration. However, any decision was for the new police board which will take over the

functions of the police committee next month.

Mr Dear, who conducted the police investigation into the mistaken shooting of Stephen Waldorf in London, said yesterday: "I am concerned that West Midlands police have got the reputation for being accident prone with guns, which I do not think is fair criticism."

"The force has not got the best record over recent years, but their training is far better than any other force for officers who are not personal protection specialists."

"There is a lot of mileage in looking at a squad which trains together for some months, perhaps six, seven or eight, but when you get people who do nothing but train and handle guns, you lose sensitivity with the public."

Mr Dear said the committee had "gone overboard" in some of its criticism.

The councillors' report said incidents involving police weapons and innocent civilians contributed to a lack of confidence in the police and raised doubts about training methods.

It said that police trained in the use of firearms also had to carry out ordinary police duties. It was not possible for an officer to make the adjustment from patrolling his beat to a highly charged situation with firearms.

GLC fund frozen to await ruling

The Greater London Council was allowed yesterday to put £36 million on ice, in case the House of Lords gives it life-after-death permission to pay the money to more than 900 voluntary organizations.

The money was paid into court after a three-day appeal hearing in the Lords. Lord Bridges said that the Lords would rule on Tuesday on whether a Court of Appeal ruling banning the "forward funding" pay-out will be upheld.

That will be the day after the GLC is abolished, so the Law Lords agreed to keep the money in court. If the GLC wins its appeal it will pay the money out, but if it loses, the £36 million will return to the GLC reserves, which will pass to the London Residuary Body.

The Lords have said that they will uphold the ban imposed by the Court of Appeal on a £40 million grant to the Inner London Education Authority.

The case has been brought by Westminster Borough Council, which argues that the GLC has no power to spend money beyond its lifespan, or to take decisions without giving adequate warning to authorities which will take over GLC responsibilities.

West Yorkshire County Council, which is also to be abolished, has given £800 to finance the funeral of Helen Smith, the nurse who died five years ago in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. It was announced yesterday.

The nurse's remains are stored in a Leeds mortuary at the request of her father, Mr Ron Smith, a former police officer, of Guiseley, West Yorkshire, who alleged an official cover-up surrounding the death on which an open verdict was recorded at an inquest in Leeds. Mr John Gunnell, leader of the council, said that a funeral would serve the public interest, and there was a small amount of unused money in the coroner's budget.

The rate-capped London Borough of Islington failed in the High Court yesterday to have its spending limits quashed.

Mr Justice Webster rejected a claim that the Department of the Environment failed to consider the cost of transferring to the council the functions of the GLC.

After giving judgement in the judge refused Southwark Borough Council permission to proceed with its challenge because the claim was based on similar grounds.

Countdown to abolition, page 7

Seven held in soccer violence crackdown

Police yesterday arrested seven Chelsea football supporters in a series of dawn raids on homes in a crackdown on football hooliganism.

Operation Own Goal by 40 Fulham police officers also netted more than 20 different types of dangerous weapons and a large quantity of National Front racist literature. Superintendent Mike Hedges, the leader of the operation, said in London.

The swoop on homes in London and the Home Counties followed five months of intensive police surveillance of Chelsea supporters travelling to away matches.

Among the weapons seized in the raids on seven addresses of Chelsea supporters were coshes, Stanley knives, razor-sharp scalp blades, iron bars, daggers, a mace, a spiked knuckle duster, crossbow, an air rifle and a high-velocity catapult.

New Scotland Yard said the intelligence gathered by the operation suggested football-related violence was being organized on a big scale by certain individuals.

"We believe Operation Own Goal has deterred organized hooliganism. Although they may call themselves Chelsea supporters, it is my firm belief that football was being used as a vehicle for their hooligan behaviour," Supt Hedges said.

Some of the men are suspected of travelling in the guise of England supporters to incite trouble abroad.

Police believe they intended to visit Russia for yesterday's England international but their visas were refused.

"We believe they also had plans to travel to Mexico for the World Cup in June," a



WPC Alison Cooper, who was involved in the operation, with some of the weapons seized (Photographs: John Voss).

Supt Hedges praised the tremendous co-operation between Metropolitan Police and provincial forces and Chelsea Football Club in the operation.

He said his police officers were surprised by the large cache of weapons.

"In the past, Stanley knives and coshes have been the most common weapons used by football hooligans."

"We decided to go on the offensive to find the ring leaders. Hopefully, there will be a decrease in the level of violence at matches."

Mr Ken Bates, chairman of Chelsea Football Club, said he was very pleased.

Motorscooter spikes which are used as knuckle dusters.

'Strange' silence of Hell's Angel

A coroner told an inquest into the death of a Hell's Angel motorcycle gang member yesterday he found it "strange" that not once during the two-week inquest had the deceased been quoted as speaking or saying anything at any stage prior to his collapse.

Summarizing the events leading to Mr John Mikkleson's death, the coroner, Dr John Burton, told the jury at Hammersmith, west London, that they "must expect differing accounts from people in chaotic situations."

Referring to the events which led to the death of Mr Mikkleson, aged 34, of Salter's Road, North Kensington, west London, who died in custody after a fight with police in Bedford Close, Feltham, west London, on July 15 last year, Dr Burton said: "In reality lots of things happened at once — we have heard it as an unfolding story."

He said the facts were for the jury to consider. "Obviously, if someone has remembered something pretty sensational later, you may wonder why they didn't remember it earlier. That is a matter for you."

Earlier, Professor David Bowen said he disagreed with his colleague, Dr Iain West, that a head injury suffered by Mr Mikkleson was a factor in the cause of death.

Dr Burton will conclude his summing up today.

Safety offer

Life Health Board in Scotland has agreed to offer parents in its area 200 free safety seats for use by children, aged nine months or under, travelling in the back seats of cars.

Wapping dispute 'could end next week'

By Michael Horswell
Mr Bruce Matthews, managing director of News International, said yesterday that the company would be willing to pay compensation to print workers who went on strike and were dismissed after the move to Wapping.

The company has asked the TUC to arrange further talks with the five newspaper unions next week and is prepared to discuss compensation once they have accepted that there are no jobs for their 6,000 members at Wapping.

But Mr Matthews said in a radio interview that some pickets outside the plant had indicated they were not prepared to accept a settlement based on compensation.

He said that News International, which has printed and distributed its four national titles in spite of the heavy picketing outside the plant, was prepared to pay compensation which in the general public's opinion would be quite generous.

Mr Matthews, who has had two preliminary meetings with union leaders this month, said: "What has been holding us up is, I think, quite clearly that there are certain members of the picket line who are demanding that they have recognition and a part inside Wapping. We find that absolutely impossible to concede."

"Since then we've had a very loyal workforce who have been getting the papers out day by day, and very confidently getting them out. We have discovered that these people enjoy their jobs. They're well paid and therefore we cannot discuss the presence of the people in the picket line within Wapping."

Mr Matthews added that during exploratory discussions with the unions it had been made clear to the company that the pickets have not yet abandoned the determination to gain recognition at Wapping.

He said the company is concerned about the dangers posed by the picket line and the inconvenience caused to local residents but added that, if pickets conceded fair compensation for their dismissal was the only issue, the dispute "could be over next week."

Mr Matthews said Mr Kinnoch and other so-called "experts on Wapping" from the Labour Party, who have criticized News International, have refused invitations to visit the company and discuss the dispute.

He emphasized that talks with the print unions were not the result of any company difficulty but to show compassion to the people that are suffering.

Print workers dismissed by News International were told yesterday that they qualify for unemployment benefit, backdated to January 28.

An independent adjudicating officer has told the Department of Employment to inform benefit offices of the ruling which came after referral of some cases by doubtful counter-claimants.

The rate of unemployment benefit is £30.45 a week for a single person, or £48.45 for a couple and may be claimed for 12 months.

About 250 demonstrators protested outside the News International plant yesterday and one man was arrested.

The National Graphical Association print union said the aim was to speak to members of the National Union of Journalists working there.

Police were called in after pickets laid siege to a TNT Road Freight transport yard near Maidstone, Kent in an attempt to disrupt distribution of *The Times* and *The Sun*. There were scuffles, but no arrests.

Two miners who joined demonstrators outside the News International plant appeared before Thames Magistrates Court. Graham Brown, aged 39, from Newcastle upon Tyne was fined £50 when he admitted throwing a plastic bag containing rubbish. Paul Garnett, aged 22, of Dover was bound over in the sum of £100 when police offered no evidence on a charge of using threatening behaviour.

Maxwell rejects call for talks

Mr Robert Maxwell yesterday rejected attempts by the National Union of Journalists to negotiate a settlement to the strike which has stopped production of the *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail* in Glasgow for more than two weeks.

He said that any of the 230 journalists dismissed for striking on his two Scottish newspapers had only to apply if they wanted their jobs back.

SDP celebrates with merger talk

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Prospects of a formal merger between the Alliance parties after the next election are believed to have hardened after remarks yesterday by Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, indicating a shift from his previous opposition.

Dr Owen said that if the Alliance fought the election with a strong programme to which both parties were committed, and failed to break the political system by introducing proportional representation, many would say that the time had come to merge.

Speaking at the Social Democratic Party celebrated its fifth anniversary in London. Dr Owen said it would be extraordinary if a merger were not one of the issues to be faced by both parties at their conferences after the next election.

He said that such a move would have to be based on wholehearted support among both parties. "When it is done I think it will be done with the minimum of disagreement and fuss about constitutional questions, and it should take place early in a Parliament."

Mr Roy Jenkins, Dr Owen's predecessor as SDP leader, who has always favoured a merger, said later: "There is no difference between us on what he has said this morning."

All the original "gang of four" and other party founders were present for yesterday's cake-cutting festivities at the Connaught Rooms, where the party was launched.

Dr Owen said that the SDP had cracked the mould. "Into that crack we now have to push policies, people, personalities and a profile of the party that, with our Liberal allies, will enable us to break the mould."

Dr Owen said the SDP was extraordinary in that 64 per cent of its members had never before committed themselves to a political party. Increasingly the stamp and identity of the party was being forged by people who had come fresh to politics.

He regretted that more Conservative MPs had not gone over to the SDP, but believed many Tories would work with the party.

Rebel pit worker chosen by Tories

A miner who worked throughout the coal strike has been chosen as Conservative candidate for the forthcoming West Derbyshire by-election.

Mr Patrick McLoughlin, aged 28, a district and county councillor and an underground worker at Littleton colliery, Staffordshire, for six years, has been a National Coal Board industrial representative since September.

The West Derbyshire seat is being vacated by Mr Matthew Parris, who had a majority of 15,325 at the last election. He is to become a television presenter.

Heads urge interim rise for teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Head teachers are today urging an immediate pay rise of 7.5 per cent for all teachers to avoid further industrial unrest during long-term talks on pay and conditions.

The call, from the National Association of Head Teachers, is for a payment on account pending the outcome of the talks at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Baroness Cox and Lord Bauer, the Conservative peers, together with Mrs Teresa

Driver facing drink charge shot himself

A depressed motorist on a drink-driving charge killed himself with a shotgun as police officers waited outside his house, an inquest at Newport, south Wales, was told yesterday.

Police had agreed to take Paul Grear, aged 29, of Green Lane, Caldicot, Gwent, home to change his clothes for a court appearance after he had spent the night in custody for his own safety.

The jury returned a verdict that Grear killed himself

Life for millionaire murderer

A millionaire was imprisoned for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after being found guilty of shooting his wife, Patsy, when she threatened to divorce him.

Mr Justice Jupp told Wilfred Bull, aged 50, an antiques dealer, of Highfield Farm, Coggeshall, Essex: "This was clearly murder although no doubt one done during the course of a quarrel rather than planned."

Baby killer

Paul Fitzpatrick, aged 20, a cleaner, of Holydale Road, Peckham, south London, was sentenced to four years' youth custody at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for manslaughter after shaking his son, aged four months, to death.

Mother held

Dawn Cooke, aged 19, of St Keverne, Cornwall, whose baby's skull was said to have broken like an eggshell, was given two years' youth custody by Bodmin Crown Court yesterday for ill-treating her son.

Pay inquiry

The chairman of the Scottish teachers' inquiry into pay and conditions is to be Sir Peter Main, former chairman of Boots and a member of the Scottish Development Agency.

UDR death

A part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, aged 52 and married, was shot dead yesterday by terrorists who singled him out as he worked at a sewage plant in Northern Ireland.

Tunnel fight

The Dover Chamber of Commerce is to take the Government to the European Commission over its plans for a Channel Tunnel. It says the fixed link would cause unemployment and a loss of trade.

New powers

Powers to control the siting of farm and forestry buildings and roads to protect the landscape of Britain's national parks were announced yesterday by Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Environment.

TGWU leader elected

Mr Brian Nicholson, a former London dockworker, was yesterday elected chairman of the 1,500,000 strong Transport and General Workers' Union.

Mr Nicholson, who has been vice-chairman and was the "soft" left candidate, had a majority of three over his rival, Mr Dan Duffy, a Scottish local authority driver, who was supported by the "hard" left.

He succeeds Walter Greendale, a Hull dockworker. The vote reflects a move away from the far left on the 39-strong executive.

The changes in the regional elections at Christmas time were followed this week by more in the elections for the 14 trade group seats.

These included the election of a second woman to the executive, Ms Maureen Twomey.

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Teachers report gang warfare in classroom as pupil violence grows

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Violence in schools is so serious that in some areas there is almost open gang warfare, according to a survey by the second biggest teaching union.

The survey shows that attacks on teachers are on the increase, with staff cars a popular target, while almost one in four taking part in the survey had been threatened with violence.

Nearly one in 10 of the 4,000 teachers involved in the six-month survey reported that they had suffered an attempted attack by a pupil, while more than one in 25 had suffered actual physical violence.

The survey, by the 117,000-strong National Association of

Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, was carried out between November 1984 and February 1985. It listed several serious cases:

● A Cheshire teacher had his car tyre slashed on school property during working hours. Nails were placed in the staff car park and glass bottles were placed under the tyre.

● A Cleveland teacher had his office gutted by a fire started by three pupils. Damage amounted to £10,000.

● A South Glamorgan teacher rebuked a pupil for continually talking. That evening the pupil went to his house and threw a brick through his car windscreen.

The survey report said that teachers were often hurt while

trying to control violence among pupils. Almost one in five teachers had experienced pupil-to-pupil violence "resulting in serious injury", on one or more occasions in the first six months of the school year.

A teacher at a Church of England high school in Lancashire said that he had witnessed knife throwing, a pupil stabbing, another pupil thrown over a high balcony and another thrown through a plate glass window.

A teacher at a Birmingham comprehensive school said that he had witnessed thousands of examples of violence between pupils, ranging from shooting to knife and gang warfare.

A Wigan high school teacher told of an attempted break-in at his home in May 1984 by two fifth-form boys who had been dismissed from school the same morning, and who had been drinking beer and sniffing glue behind his property in the afternoon.

The teacher said that the two boys, and others from the school, had been harassing him at home for about eight months, causing him to suffer from lack of sleep and general ill health.

The survey said that the attacks could have serious physical and psychological effects on staff, particularly if they were assaulted at home.



Queue for corneal grafts may end

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A new technique for storing corneas for up to 30 days in an eye bank may spell the end to queues for corneal grafts, UK Transplant, the National Health Service's transplant co-ordination centre said yesterday.

Two corneal transplants have been performed in Bristol by Professor David Easty, consultant ophthalmologist at the Bristol Eye Hospital, using corneas stored in a special nutrient fluid which can preserve them for up to 30 days, rather than the four days at present.

More than 1,200 corneal grafts are performed in Britain each year, usually for cataracts, infections or other damage which makes the cornea go opaque, but the present waiting list is 382. Most transplants use fresh corneas within hours of the donor's death.

A spokesman for UK Transplant said: "There are many advantages in using organ-cultured corneas. The cornea can be re-checked over a period of time to make sure that it is suitable and in good condition, and it can be better matched for the patient."

In the Bristol operations one of the corneas was stored for two weeks at UK Transplant, while the other came from Denmark after a month's storage. Professor Easty said yesterday that both patients had been discharged and were doing well. "The results were just about as good as you would get with fresh tissue."

The technique, in use at only three centres in Denmark, Holland and the United States, involves culturing the corneas in fluid containing proteins, vitamins, essential amino-acids and serum.

'Vandal-proof' school

The latest development in vandal-proof school buildings, with anti-intruder alarms and concrete walls resistant to graffiti, is to be built on a council estate in Humberston. It will open in the autumn of 1988 and cost £6.1 million.

Mr Colin Batecliffe, Springfield, the architect, said that the roof would be made from tough iron sheeting rather than tiles "that can easily be turned into missiles". Ground floor windows will be made from toughened safety glass.

The 1,200-pupil school is to be built on the Bramsholme estate in Hull as part of a re-organization of city schools. The planners hope it will soften the estate's rough image and provide a "heart" for the area's 70,000 residents.

Work is due to start this summer. The education authority hopes to use the building as a community centre at night, opening the library, drama studio and sports hall to residents.

Air travel survey

Fares 'unnecessarily high'

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

European air travellers are being cheated both in the air and on the ground, according to a report from the National Consumer Council.

In the air, passengers are made to pay unnecessarily high fares because European governments are more interested in protecting their airlines than the consumer. On the ground, they pay exorbitant charges for duty-free goods because airport concessionaires retain the duty themselves instead of passing it on to the customer.

The report said that in 1984 the price of a bottle of duty-free whisky at Heathrow Airport was £3.75 compared with £1.87 for the same bottle, excluding duty, at Safeways.

In a strong attack on restrictive practices by European governments, airlines and aviation bodies, the NCC urged the British Government to take European air travel "out of the political arena and make it commercial".

It called for the renegotiation of air service agreements with European governments, scrapping those which conflict with the competition clauses

of the Treaty of Rome, a stop to airport authorities abusing monopoly powers on duty-free sales and baggage handling charges, and freedom for charter airlines to fly when, how, and where they liked, without restriction.

The 251-page report took more than a year to compile. Mr Michael Montague, NCC chairman, said: "We welcome steps taken by the Government to open up European air routes, but we want them to redouble their efforts. To show its EEC partners that it means business, the UK Government should give notice that it will tear up its air service agreements with other EEC governments unless they

comply with the competition rules laid down in the Treaty of Rome.

"We have airlines subject to a vast range of pettifoggish restrictions."

Mr Nirj Deva, chairman of the report team, gave a warning that the kind of liberalization the NCC was urging did not necessarily mean lower fares.

The report also said that the British Government should hold all UK airlines responsible for death, loss or injury. If an airline went bankrupt, passengers should be able to complete their journey.

Air Transport and the Consumer, National Consumer Council (HMSO, £7.95).

Fares and pence per mile on four European routes

	First	Club	Economy	Charter
London to:	Fare PPM	Fare PPM	Fare PPM	Fare PPM
Athens (1492m)	£423 20p	£280 10p	£248 50p	£148 50p
Belgrade (1049m)	£371 35p	£234 22p	£185 8p	£105 8p
Barcelona (701m)	£271 30p	£148 21p	£145 10p	£85 10p
Paris (209m)	£128 61p	£84 40p	£68 32p	£78 17p
	single	single	single	return

Source: ABC World Airline Guide 1984.



Contractor jailed for 'lump' tax fraud

A building contractor who was the central figure in a "lump" tax fraud was jailed for eight years by Judge Michael Argyle, QC, at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. He was also made criminally bankrupt for £1,723,603.

Timothy Quirke, aged 42, of Palmerston Road, Wood Green, north London, was found guilty, after a three-month trial, of conspiring to cheat the Inland Revenue.

The scheme provided tax exemption certificates to sub-contractors through companies he ran under false names. It enabled the sub-contractors to obtain tax-free payments from large construction companies.

Mr Alan Suckling, QC, said that the three-year racket became so vast that Quirke had to hire "runners" to collect the cheques. Huge sums of cash rolled in without him lifting a finger on building contract work worth £9 million.

Quirke's wife, Mrs Anne Quirke, aged 39, alleged to have been her husband's company secretary, was cleared of any involvement.

The court heard that most of the fraud money was channelled to the Republic of Ireland, where it disappeared.

Quirke and his wife had two cars, rented flats and were popular visitors at the race track to watch their £10,000 colt, Gurtene Boy, and at Irish nightspots.

Former FBI agent jailed for counterfeit

A former United States Federal Bureau of Investigation agent allegedly involved in organized crime was jailed for eight years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The court was told that William Herrman allegedly took part in a mafia scheme to flood Europe with \$100 million in counterfeit US dollars.

Herrman, aged 50, of South Kensington, and David Bizzell, aged 42, a South African-born arms dealer, of Chelsea, both west London, were convicted of possessing fake US dollar notes.

Bizzell was jailed for five years after the judge, Mr Recorder Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, said the men were part of a major operation in crime.

The decline of Miss Jean Brodie

Never well paid, the teachers' lot is less today than it ever was.

And that is the heart of the problem, according to Mary Kenny in her engrossing article in this week's Spectator.

Going, in the age of television, is the chance of etching an indelible mark on their pupils' minds à la Mr Chips or Miss Jean Brodie.

Going too is the high regard for being repositories of knowledge.

Gone are the days when they were compensated for their penury by the invisible reward of high social standing.

So what's to be done?

In the best Spectator tradition, Mary Kenny not only analyses the subject but also offers an intriguing solution.

This is an article of the utmost importance to both teachers and parents.

An article of no importance except to those who love horse racing is Jeffrey Bernard's review of the new Lester Piggott biography.

Apparently the book is long on statistics but short on jokes, which could hardly be said about Bernard's weekly Low Life column.

Don't decline this week's Spectator. Odds on it's a winner.

THE SPECTATOR

Hackers 'laundered' licences

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Computer experts at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea are investigating an allegation that home computer enthusiasts have broken into their computer and electronically laundered endorsed driving licences for payments of hundreds of pounds.

The allegations are contained in an article appearing in the magazine *Business*, published last week, which maintains that for a period of two to three months last year the computer buffs were making substantial sums of money from wealthy businessmen with poor driving records.

Driving offences attract penalty points on a licence. A driver who has accumulated more than 12 in three years loses his licence. The computer buffs, known as hackers, allegedly altered licences for £100 a point.

The Department of Transport denies that it was possible because, it says, the computer is secure. The magazine alleges that computer enthusiasts were offered codes on their electronic notice boards, where they exchange information with each other.

According to a spokesman at the Department of Transport: "We are looking into it. We may be talking about an employee who is less than honest, rather than the ability to hack from outside."

Royal recipe for Food Aid

The Princess of Wales has contributed one of her favourite recipes, watercress soup, to a cookery book *Food Aid*, published by the BBC to raise funds for Band Aid.

Bob Geldof yesterday received a £100,000 cheque from the proceeds of sponsorship and advance orders for the book, which contains 140 recipes contributed by stars and famous personalities.

Journeys of fear in a hearse

The driver of a hearse created such fear in his passengers that many were afraid journeys with him might be their last.

Colleagues of Mr Max Jerison told an industrial inquiry at Birmingham that he had narrowly avoided a collision when driving a hearse round a blind bend and had driven a corpse collection van round a roundabout practically on two wheels.

He had also crashed a limousine into the back of another, causing £1,200 worth of damage. Mr Maurice Batten, another driver, said: "I wanted to be an undertaker and not one of the corpses."

Mr Jerison, of Kingswood Road, Moseley, Birmingham, claimed he was made to be a pall bearer after he was held by police on a false allegation of a homosexual offence.

But Mr Terence Bastock, managing director of funeral directors C. Bastock, of Birmingham, said that he had not known the nature of the allegations. He was only concerned about Mr Jerison's driving.

Mr Jerison yesterday lost a claim that he was constructively dismissed.

Satanist 'saw devil's emissary by his bed'

The self-styled Satanist, Mr Derry Mainwaring Knight, met an "emissary from Satan" standing at the foot of his bed, a court was told yesterday.

The claim was contained in a tape-recorded life story of Mr Knight, which was played to the jury at Maidstone Crown Court.

On the tape, narrated by his mother, Mr Knight told of how early in his life he had been lying in bed. "I saw something standing at the foot of my bed. It was not human. It had the shape of a human being, but no facial features."

"I was told my life would be full of trouble. No good would ever come into my life and ultimately I would be utterly

destroyed. I believe what I saw was an emissary from Satan. From that day on my troubles began."

The tape, introduced by Mr Gordon Booth, a Congregationalist minister from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, also claimed that Mr Knight was cursed at birth by his grandmother.

Mr Knight said that he was shoplifting by the age of 10, although his father was a pastor.

The tape also described how Mr Knight defrauded a Christian of "thousands of marks" while on national service in Germany. He was later dishonourably discharged from the Coldstream Guards. The case continues.

PARLIAMENT MARCH 26 1986

Domestic rates • Immigration control • Conscientious objectors

New guidance on immigration cases

HOME OFFICE

New guidance on MPs' representations on immigration cases was needed to bring order to the traditional arrangements for representation which, in their sharp increase over the past three years, were threatening to undermine immigration control, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said when opening a debate on MPs' representations in such cases.

There was nothing in the proposals before the House which changed the policy, criteria or practice of immigration control, he said.

He had been anxious to proceed with the greatest possible extent of agreement. This was the first time the arrangements under which MPs made representations in immigration cases had been reviewed.

It had become accepted that the mere representation of an MP should be sufficient to achieve deferment of removal of a person from Britain. This was a unique facility given to MPs by custom.

He wanted a balance between the ability of MPs to carry out their responsibilities to their constituents and the need for effective, efficient, immigration control.

The guidance which had been tabled was not to tighten immigration control. The Government recognised the need for immigration control that was firm and fair.

In 1980, 1981 and 1982 representations were made in about 1,000 cases involving refusal at port of entry in each of those years. The number had increased each year to about 2,500 in 1983, 3,500 in 1984 and 5,700 in 1985. In the first two months of this year, the number of representations in ports cases had been about 1,200 in what was normally the lightest period of the year, which would mean annually over 7,000 cases.

All this growth had occurred without any change in the law regarding the admission of visitors, without any material change in the rules, and without any change in criteria applied by the immigration service.

He was concerned that unless the system of making and

handling representations was improved it would crack under its own weight. The number of representations made about immigration cases generally had increased from about 9,000 in 1981 to just over 16,000 in 1985.

He proposed to retain the present facility for MPs to ring his private office, or that of the minister, to ask for the removal of a passenger to be deferred while representations were considered. Arrangements under the revised guidelines would be operated flexibly.

There was no intention of changing the existing arrangements under which staff employed by MPs were able to make representations on their behalf to ministers.

It was crucial, if they were to get the balance right, to have sensible time limits and he proposed to increase these from 10 working days to 12 for port refusal cases, and there would have to be a reasonable degree of flexibility.

Because further pressure was expected on the ports, the staffing provision for 1986-87 would be increased by 52 posts over that originally planned and there would be further financial provision for the immigration service in later years of the order of £3 million per year.

The vast majority of people in Britain wanted firm immigration control to be sustained and he would like to see this sustained by continuing to take full advantage of relying on the judgement of immigration officers at the ports of entry.

But the strains placed on the system, rising passenger traffic, an increased number of refusals and the growth of representations would remain severe.

It strained the patience of the vast majority of passengers waiting in line for a brief interview with immigration officers. It strained the commitment and job satisfaction of staff, and it strained the effectiveness of the control itself. So they would have to keep a close watch on the way the position developed during the summer and be ready, if necessary, to adapt further their arrangements and systems.

But his judgement today was that the proposals now before the House, which had emerged from this helpful process of

consultation, were sensible and would help enable MPs to discharge their responsibilities in a way which was more compatible than previously with effective immigration control.

He intended that the changes would come into effect from May 1.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said the discrimination in the refusal rate against entry from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh had been growing, while the



Hurd: Unique facility given to MPs

refusal rate for Canada, for instance, was half of that country's refusal figure in 1978, the last year of a Labour government.

There is a huge differential (he said) between the treatment of travellers from the old Commonwealth and the United States on the one hand and those from the new Commonwealth and Pakistan on the other hand.

The debate was not principally about those seeking permanent settlement in Britain but mainly about would-be visitors wanting to come for a short time and then go away again.

They are not (he continued) dominated by some passionate yearning to enter this country as visitors and then go into hiding for the benefit of the right to live under Thatcherism.

The "no" system under which an MP could prevent a removal until a ministerial answer had been obtained on the request for admission, had

brought more stops because the refusals had increased. This had led to the strange events of last October and the allegations by the Minister of State, Mr David Widdington, who had suffered a rush of blood to the head and launched an attack on unspecified MPs who he claimed were "abusing their right to make representations in cases".

The minister had listed six abuses, none of which were, in fact, an abuse. And some of these practices, if not all, had been employed by MPs on both sides of the House in dealing with cases.

Words like "abuse" and "misuse" had disappeared. Then Mr Widdington had hinted that 23 MPs were involved. The names were never named because there were no names to name.

Mr David Widdington, Minister of State, Home Office, said Mr Kaufman knew he had written to 23 MPs and the substance of their replies was that they had no intention of giving consent to their names being revealed.

Mr Kaufman said the Minister of State had backed down. In the new document published last week, described as guidelines, major improvements had been made but many of the new proposals were still unsatisfactory.

The new document could seriously prejudice the right of MPs to protect constituents and their relatives and friends.

They were strongly opposed to the time limits laid down for representations. Twelve working days, although a slight increase on the original proposals, were still far too brief for contacts to be made between MPs and the affected persons and then for representations to be made to the minister.

They still strongly objected to the prohibition on MP taking up a case in another MP's constituency without the second MP having agreed. What about the position to those who knew that the Conservative MP concerned had indicated he would not take up these cases?

The Opposition wanted the Government to withdraw that condition. Peers were being allowed to regard the whole country as their constituency.

It was unacceptable that in the narrow range of permitted cases where under the guidelines MPs were allowed to take up a non-constituency case the Home Office would send a copy of the reply to the constituency MP. It would be unacceptable for confidential and private material to be passed on to another person without the agreement of the affected person.

A Labour government (he said) will certainly maintain a firm immigration control, but unlike that of this Government it will be a non-racist, non-sexist immigration control.

At the very moment we take office we will make sure that Labour's firm but fair immigration control will be administered humanely and with the respect that is the due of those who seek to enter.

Mr Edward Gardner (Fylde, C) said control of entry of people from abroad into this country was a serious and growing problem. Nothing Mr Kaufman had said could do anything to resolve it.

There had been a breathtaking increase in the number of representations by MPs on immigration cases. In the three years up to 1982 the average number of representations was 1,000 a year. The next year that figure doubled, the year after that it trebled and in 1985 the increase was 61 per cent up on the previous year.

The effect of the increase in representations was to divert the energies and concentration of immigration officers and resulted in appalling delays. If the system was subject to serious constraint - as it undoubtedly was at the moment - because of the increase in the number of representations then the system itself was in danger of being destroyed.

These guidelines were reasonable, sensible and well-balanced. Mr Sydney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall, Lab) said the grounds of some refusals were very flimsy. It was a rare occasion when the visitor was out to circumvent the immigration controls. The Government was responsible for the harshness in many cases with which visitors - particularly those from the Indian sub-continent - were treated.

Burden of housing rates falling on too few shoulders

HOUSE OF LORDS

Local authorities should raise more of their own expenditure, rather than rely on Government block grants, so they would become more accountable to the electorate, Lord Marshall of Leeds (C) said in opening a debate in the House of Lords on the case for spreading the rates burden more fairly and equitably.

The burden of domestic rates, due partly to the narrow tax base, was unfairly concentrated on too few shoulders, he said, and annual rate increases well above inflation exacerbated the problem.

We have to decide (he said) whether we want responsibility for decisions about levels of local services and the costs of those services to be with central or local government. There is no middle way except one which confuses responsibility and obscures accountability.

He hoped responsibility would go in the direction of local authorities and that they would draw much of their money from a wide group of the local electorate as possible.

Local councils should also become accountable locally for the consequences of their policies on spending and social services. The present arrangements for financing local government simply did not meet those objectives.

We shall ignore the accountability argument at our peril (he said) if we expect to continue to exercise democratic rights at local level in a continuing democratic society.

Lady David, for the Opposition, said that rates were so high because the Government had cut rate support grants by £170 million since 1979-80 as part of a policy of discouraging local expenditure and shifting the burden of taxation away from income tax.

They had grave reservations about the idea of a poll tax. The

administrative problems were enormous. In future the current social security proposals involved all households paying at least 10 per cent of their rates. The poor in high-rated areas would be the hardest hit. The poor would suffer.

Outlining Labour policy on local government reform, she said: We shall not abolish the rates and we shall not introduce a poll tax. Local income tax is being considered.

Lord Winstanley (L) said some things now done by local government should be undertaken by central government. Education might be better administered as a central government function.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said Lady David had even doubted whether there was a rate burden. He wondered what effect it would have on the millions who were going to receive rate demands for large sums, backed by the threat of the machinery of the law.

With 60 per cent of the rates contributed by the disinfranchised communities, industry and business - and half of the remainder not paid by the electors at all, the system was almost ideally geared to extravagance.

Lord Dea of Beawick (Lab) said those who suggested a greater proportion of rates should be raised locally could have no idea of the size of the problem in some areas.

There is no system this Government or a future Labour government could devise which could be applied universally (he said). Some areas would find it totally impossible to raise increased finances by any means.

Royal Assent

The Local Government Bill was among three measures which received the Royal Assent in the House of Lords. The others were the Law Reform (Parent and Child) Scotland Bill and the Museum of London Bill.

Glasgow getting sufficient funds

HEALTH BOARD

If Greater Glasgow Health Board was in financial difficulties, as some Labour MPs suggested, it was the board's own responsibility, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said during Commons questions.

He said the board received more per capita than any other Scottish health authority and more, too, than any regional health authority in England.

He had made a total revenue allocation to the board for 1986-87 of £360.3 million, £21 million more than in 1985-86.

Lord James Craig (Glasgow, North, Lab) said that if Mr Rifkind thought the Glasgow board was doing so well why did it seem that it would be £3 million over the year because of the extra it had to pay? The Scottish Office recognised the amount of in-patient and out-patient work the board did on a wider scale for the rest of the region?

On what it simply that the Scottish Office had put it in for this board because of its pragmatic approach to privatisation? Mr Rifkind: Mr Craig must have a persecution complex on his own behalf, or that of the health board because it is the best-funded in Scotland. Its allocation for 1986-87 is 5.3 per cent higher than that of the previous year. That is a figure greater than the inflation rate.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Central, Lab) said the Glasgow board was facing a financial crisis.

Unless more money is available (he said) there will be severe cuts in services. Mr Rifkind said the board received a sum representing £405 per capita, and other boards received smaller sums. It was not credible for Mr Millan to say that the Greater Glasgow Health Board did not get generous services.

Mrs Anna McChesley (Glasgow, West and Inverclyde, C) said Glasgow had been treated generously. That was why, for next year, some other authorities were being given provision for growth which the Glasgow board's provision would allow it to maintain its existing services. This would allow other areas to catch up with Glasgow.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth and Kinross, Glasgow, Lab) said that if it was to increase its finances it should not take such a pragmatic attitude to privatisation, though Mr Craig meant to say "dogmatic".

If the English authorities can raise £40 million for privatisation, or can save 25 per cent, Glasgow would be able to increase its own funding if it did not take such a politically averse attitude.

Mr Rifkind said that examining the opportunities for transferring to private contractors for some services as a possible way to save money was open to authorities. If an authority did not take the opportunity they would be foregoing possible savings.

Mr Donald Thomas, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said the per capita comparison Mr Rifkind had used was shamelessly misleading because it did not take into account the enormous patient inflow from other areas to hospitals with specialist facilities in Glasgow.

Mr Rifkind replied that such factors were taken into account under the share formula. The fact that Greater Glasgow provided services for those outside its area was not, with specialist facilities, an exception. Health services in Scotland had had an increase in real terms of 16.4 per cent in funding as compared with 1979.

Finance Bill

Mr Jehu MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced in a Commons written reply that the Finance Bill could be published on April 16.

Parliament today

Commons: (9.30): Easter adjournment debates.

Bill to set up fund for war objectors

TAXATION

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) was given leave under the 10-minute rule to bring in a Bill to allow people to withhold that portion of their tax at present spent on arms and related purposes and to facilitate the payment of such sums to peaceful non-governmental purposes.

He said an old age pensioner named Arthur Windsor had been sent to prison for withholding taxes on conscientious grounds. Mr Windsor had become the first conscientious objector to be jailed in this country since conscription ended over a quarter of a century ago.

During the 1914-18 war Parliament gave statutory recognition to the right of conscientious objectors who wanted to opt out of military service. In the nuclear age, because of the probability of indiscriminate annihilation if nuclear warfare ever came to pass, there were strong grounds for arguing that recognition of the right of conscientious objection should be extended to those who had strongly held objections to the financing of warfare through taxation.

This Bill proposed the establishment of a peace fund. Individuals would have the right to assign part of their taxes to peace-building projects to be administered through the fund.

If a person chose to register his or her conscientious objection to the financing of warfare through taxation the Treasury would make an appropriate payment to the peace fund for that person. An

individual would have the right to demand that the Treasury paid up to £450 a year into the fund rather than into the Ministry of Defence budget.

The fund would be administered by trustees appointed by and accountable to Parliament and the trustees would report annually to Parliament. The fund would be disbursed for peace-building programmes - for example, to voluntary agencies working in the Third World, such as Oxfam, Christian Aid and War on Want.

It might be argued that this would open the door for all sorts of people to object to the sorts of items of government expenditure and encourage them to withhold their taxes. In the case of Conservative MPs, whose party was supposed to believe in the freedom of the individual, it would be somewhat ironic to deny that freedom in these circumstances.

If it was morally wrong to kill people it was also morally wrong to pay other people to do the killing or pay for the weapons which did the killing.

Canavan: Taxes would go to peace fund

disbursed for peace-building programmes - for example, to voluntary agencies working in the Third World, such as Oxfam, Christian Aid and War on Want.

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Bill promised for autumn

PROPAGANDA

The Government believed it essential that the Local Government Bill should receive Royal Assent before April 1 to ensure enactment of the rate provisions for the next financial year, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Environment, Countryside and Local Government, said when the Commons considered the Lords amendments late on Tuesday night.

The limited time before the Easter recess meant that any delay the Bill would result in some of its provisions having to be retrospective. Therefore, he

said, the Government did not invite the House to disagree with the amendments made by the House of Lords.

However, he indicated that legislation would be introduced next session to restore the effect of some of the amendments to the Bill.

He said that some would be quick to point out that that was an unsatisfactory situation, but the Bill as amended was an improvement on the present position where there was no express prohibition of party political propaganda.

The House would return to the subject in the autumn. In the meantime it would be better to accept half a loaf than to have

none at all, in order to get something onto the statute book.

Mr Peter Brabaine (Leicester East, C) said he much regretted the Government's decision as he believed the Bill unamended would have caused those Labour authorities throughout the country which were "wasting" money on party political propaganda.

It was bitterly disappointing that the amendments would now allow money to be spent in publishing material to persuade the electorate to support the Labour Party.

The Lords amendments were agreed to.

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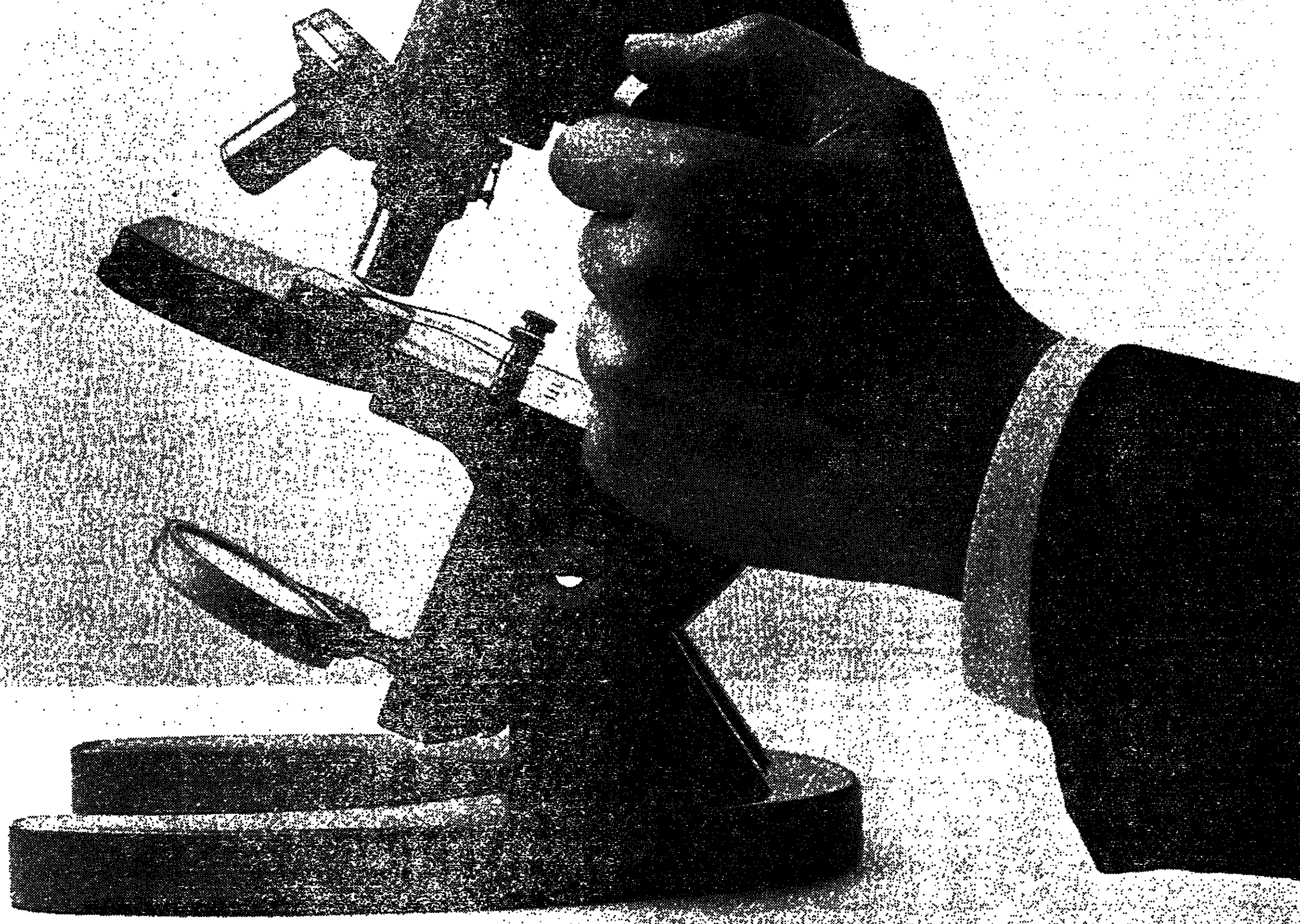
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the smaller it looks.**

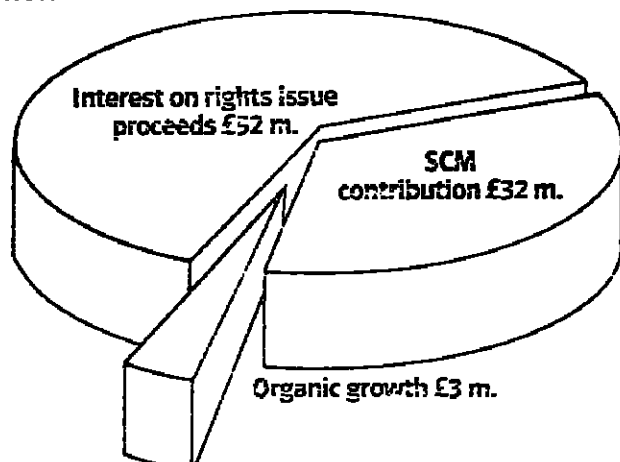


Hanson forecasts a 1986 profit of not less than £340 million: an increase on 1985 of £87 million, or 34%.

At first sight, very creditable. But let's take a closer look.

We estimate that some £52 million will come not from organic growth but from interest savings following last year's rights issue. In other words, a once-and-for-all gain paid for by investors themselves.

A DISSECTION OF HANSON'S FORECAST 1986 PROFIT "GROWTH"



We estimate that at least another £32 million will come from the first-time contribution from SCM—a company bought by Hanson this financial year. Profit, yes: but again, not organic.

So what does that leave? Just £3 million, or less than 2% of real, organic growth.

Now allow for inflation, and you'll arrive at the conclusion we came to.

Hanson's forecast profit increase of 34% just doesn't bear close examination.



Countdown to abolition: 1 Extravaganza and lethargy become partners at the end

From a concert night with a programme of unfinished symphonies, to an eve-of-abolition extravaganza next Monday with vast outdoor video screens bearing farewell messages and rockets fired from Thames barges, the Greater London Council is overwhelming Londoners with celebrations of its demise.

With the adept propaganda and publicity skills that have marked its recent history under Ken Livingstone, the GLC will this week spend £250,000 ensuring that no Londoner misses its ending.

But, behind the facade, heads at County Hall are less thick from the cork-popping round of a hurried leaving parties than the constant talk of Job Shops, transfer terms, and compensation forms.

And ratepayers will wonder, while the rest are sobering up, whether the stroke of midnight next Monday means the end of a pantomime, or the beginning of a bad dream.

The lethargy and listlessness that has been mounting inside County Hall over the past few months is ill-concealed this week by the frantic buzz of High Court actions over "forward funding".

In the section dealing with grants, staff have been under pressure to process final payments to voluntary groups.

But, as one member of staff who is leaving to take a compensation pay off says: "Most people have spent the whole time in a sort of dazed despondency, sitting on each other's desks just chatting."

The result, in many areas, is that tasks will be left on deserted desks next Tuesday.

In the first of two articles on the abolition of the GLC and six metropolitan counties, Colin Hughes looks at how the capital's seven million inhabitants and County Halls' 21,500 staff will be affected by the disappearance of a complete tier of local government next week.

Most loose ends will be tied by the 4,331 staff which the London Residuary Body have taken on solely to clear up the leftovers. They have no idea how long they will be wanted: it could take five years to wind up complex subjects, three months for others.

Next Tuesday only a few hundred out of the 21,500 people employed by the GLC will be made, according to the local government euphemism, "involuntarily redundant".

The real figure may run into thousands by the end of the year as the LRB runs out of work for them to do.

Most staff have transferred, either en bloc, like the 8,080 to the new fire and civil defence authority, or according to job areas, as with the staff who have simply moved over the bridge into the Inner London Education Authority.

While staff scramble to settle their futures, the new successor bodies are still scrambling to arrange their take-over of GLC affairs.

Few Londoners will notice changes from Tuesday morning, but gradually the effects of abolition will affect them in unexpected ways.

The loss will not be felt overnight, because bins will still be emptied (by the seven groups of waste disposal boroughs).

It will be in strategic planning that abolition gradually

becomes apparent, on transport, siting dumps, agreeing through routes and settling differences across borough boundaries.

Other arrangements have been left to the last minute. The new London Planning Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from the boroughs and successor bodies, only two weeks ago managed to agree on a £1 million budget and a staff of 25.

The LRB was originally designed to run on a low staff and budget to oversee winding down operations, such as debt servicing, super-annuation, and the huge business of selling off and re-distributing GLC property (including County Hall itself, the fate of which remains undecided).

As it became clear that dozens of functions could not be resolved in time, the LRB has accumulated a mass of extra tasks and a £617 million budget next year.

The GLC computer, for example, will take nine months to move; and no political solution has yet been found to the running of Hampstead Heath.

Mr Geoff Williams, planning committee chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities, says that London-wide planning will perish.

Already the Planning Advisory Committee has failed to take over the GLC's case at a green belt planning inquiry for a 760-acre new town at Thurrock, Essex, he said.

But Mr Peter Bowness, who chairs the Conservative-controlled London Boroughs Association, said: "Londoners have nothing to worry about. As far as services are concerned, they won't even know the GLC has gone except when they come to pick up a smaller bill."

It is all over bar the fireworks. Tomorrow: the metropolitan county councils

US asks Greece to help fight terrorism

From Mario Modiano
Athens

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, yesterday called for closer co-operation between his country and Greece against "the insidious threat of terrorism".

Speaking at a Greek Foreign Ministry lunch, Mr Shultz said: "The destruction of the Truman statue dramatizes how the proponents of violence, by targeting the symbols of Greek-American friendship, seek to undermine the basis of civilized and respectful relations among nations."

It took the Greek Government four days to react to the bombing of the statue in Athens last weekend. Yesterday a spokesman said it was to be condemned as any other bomb outrage. The culprit, he added, were being sought because it was the Government's duty to maintain public order.

Co-operation between the US and Greece on counter-terrorism has improved perceptibly since Washington invoked travel sanctions last year. The two governments, however, disagree over Libya's



Mr Shultz lays a wreath at the tomb of the unknown warrior in central Athens yesterday.

role in international terrorism, which has been cited as one of the causes underlying the confrontation in the Gulf of Sirte.

While Mr Shultz was having his first round of talks with Mr Karolos Papoulias, his Greek opposite number, the ruling Socialist Party condemned the American action

against Libya as an unequivocal "attempts by the United States to create a holocaust."

The Greek Government said it would not allow the American bases in Greece to be used for operations against "friendly countries", including Libya. A spokesman said use of the bases for other than defensive purposes was banned.

Prague must pay for its praise from Moscow

From Roger Boyes, Prague

The Soviet Union has given its blessing to the Czechoslovak Communist Party in a much needed gesture of reassurance. But in return, it wants closer Soviet bloc co-operation in its attempts to narrow the technology gap between East and West.

This emerged in a speech published yesterday by Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, a Soviet Politburo member and head of the Soviet delegation to the Czechoslovak Party congress. He told the Czechoslovak delegates that their policies since the Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968 had been correct — there had been no swingeing attacks on Brezhnev-style leadership.

"The social practice in those (post 1968) years bears witness to the absolute correctness and efficiency of the political line which you set for yourselves," Mr Solomentsev said there

was a need for "a qualitatively new level of economic integration of the fraternal countries", meaning, a greater pooling of research on high technology and industrial modernization.

But as Mr Lubomir Strougal, the Prime Minister, said on Tuesday, closer Soviet co-operation on technological matters would not be the sole answer to Prague's problems. There would also have to be internal changes and more technology imported from the West.

"The Czechoslovak economic mechanism has not so far created sufficient economic pressure and efficient stimulus," said Mr Strougal, who ranks as one of the more forward looking economists in the leadership. "It will be necessary to create much more stringent conditions in which anyone unable to meet the

new demands will fail the test."

This is something less than a full-blooded call for economic change but does suggest the Prague leadership is getting ready to introduce more incentives and perhaps give greater autonomy to factories.

Mr Strougal said it was important to match the "leading manufacturers in the world" on technological standards and admitted the drive to increase your cover by up to 50% of your initial life cover, on the occasion of marriage, the birth of a child, or the purchase of a new home.

The pressure to modernize the Czech economy — if not reform it — stems from the need to balance several competing priorities including a raising of the standard of living.

EEC puts off the day of farm price reckoning

From Richard Owen, Brussels

With Britain at odds with both France and West Germany after this week's Council of Agriculture Ministers, time is running out for agreement on the three urgent farm issues facing the EEC: disposal of the £6 billion food mountain, reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) and the annual round of farm prices.

The ministers, including the controversial new French Agriculture Minister, M Francois Guillaume, left Brussels with little to show for two days of discussions except an agreement to postpone setting the farm prices by extending the marketing year to late April, when the next farm council is scheduled.

Britain takes over the presidency of the Council of Ministers in three months but is being increasingly isolated on farm spending and budgetary discipline. France and West Germany this week joined forces to blunt the edge of Britain's drive for price cuts and reform of the CAP.

M Guillaume, a former head of the French farmers' union, lived up to his reputation as an outspoken hardline defender of French farmers' interests. In talks with Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the West German Agriculture Minister, he suggested further close collaboration between Paris and Bonn over farm prices and spending.

"You are a farmer and I am a farmer," M Guillaume, said in greeting Herr Kiechle. He had left Paris on Monday vowing to obtain an increase in farm prices of 4.7

per cent, but was markedly more cautious in his first appearance at the council itself, noting only that the Chirac Government reserved its position on proposals for a price freeze put forward by the EEC Commission and backed by Britain.

Mr Michael Jopling, Britain's Agriculture Minister, refused to be drawn into immediate confrontation with M Guillaume, and countered the emerging Paris-Bonn understanding by inviting him to London.

But M Guillaume, who in the past has demanded British withdrawal from the EEC, was implacable, declaring that the Chirac Government would never have agreed to the British budget rebate terms negotiated at the Fontainebleau summit of 1984.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has said that reform of the costly CAP will be a priority during Britain's presidency. But M Guillaume firmly announced on arriving in Brussels that the main aim of the CAP was to ensure a higher income for European farmers, leading one farm expert to observe that for M Guillaume "European" was a code word for "French".

He spoke out against proposed reforms of the cereals and beef sectors, including a "co-responsibility" tax of 3 per cent on cereals, which he said would generate bureaucracy and weaken competitiveness.

The Commission wants reforms, a price freeze and urgent moves towards disposal of the food surpluses.

Bonn struggles to sign accord on Star Wars

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Herr Martin Bismarck, West German Economics Minister, and Mr Casper Weinberger, US Defence Secretary, are engaged in "considerable give and take" on the final negotiations over signing an agreement defining Bonn's role in the Star Wars research programme.

They held a meeting here on Tuesday but did not reach full agreement. "There are still some things to be worked

out", the Pentagon spokesman

out. MÜNICH: A coalition row over how closely West Germany should embrace the strategic defence initiative (SDI) sharpened yesterday (Reuters reports). In a front-page article in his newspaper *Bayernkurier*, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the number two party in the Kohl three-party coalition, accused the liberals of sabotaging the negotiations.

New GLC 'possible'

London might in future need some form of strategic authority in place of the Greater London Council, says the chairman of the body which will clear up after its abolition.

"I happen to believe that there may be a requirement for some strategic powers to be devolved for Greater London," Sir Geoffrey Taylor, chairman of the London Residuary Body, said.

"I regard our job here as to produce what I term a flat surface. That will enable the politicians in five or ten years time to say: 'Now, do we require a strategic authority or not?'"

"But it would have to be very strictly confined, because the lack of strict confinement has been the seeds of the GLC's own self-destruction."

Spectrum, page 14

£65,000 for loss of mother

Two orphans who saw their parents die in a tragic car crash were yesterday awarded £65,000 for the loss of their mother, after suing their father's estate.

Mr Justice Canfield said in the High Court that the loss of a "good, devoted and energetic mother's love" could not be compensated in law. But he said that the court had to put a value on the suffering caused to Deborah and David Smith.

Tragedy struck when the family car was in a head-on collision with a bus near Woking, Surrey, in 1979.

The father, Mr George Smith, aged 57, a clerk, who was driving, and his wife Mary, aged 47, a hotel secretary, were killed instantly.

Deborah, aged 16 at the time, suffered loss of sight in her right eye. Now aged 23, married and living in Essex, she has already received almost £41,000 for her injuries.

She will share the latest award with her brother, now aged 18, who earlier received £2,500 for his injuries. The brothers were awarded against the estate of Mr Smith, who was largely to blame for the accident, and the bus company and its driver, who admitted liability but contested the amount in the award.

Hospital safe

A protest campaign involving 5,000 people, during which 100 letters a day were sent to the Prime Minister, has saved St George's Hospital, a 54-bed geriatric unit at Stamford, Lincolnshire, from closure until new premises are provided.

Roads starved of funds, MPs claim

By Stephen Goodwin, Political Staff

Maintenance of Britain's motorways and trunk roads has been starved of funds for many years, an all-party committee of MPs declared yesterday, in a report published 24 hours after the Department of Transport announced an increase in the repairs programme.

MPs on the Public Accounts Committee, the Commons' spending watchdog, said that the backlog of work on motorways was expected to take six years to clear, even longer for trunk roads, and criticized the amount of money devoted to this purpose as "most unsatisfactory".

Despite the Government's pre-emptive announcement of a 7 per cent increase to £143 million next year, in spending on repairs, its target for eliminating the backlog still remains the "mid 1990s".

The committee pointed out that while new road schemes had added to the national network and heavy traffic

taken its toll, the share of the roads programme devoted to maintenance had remained a fairly constant 25 per cent.

"To achieve value for money in road maintenance it is important to resurface at the optimum time, to prevent undue deterioration leading to premature reconstruction, which can be nearly three times more expensive," the committee said.

Quoting an earlier report they said that a continuing failure to "spend now and save later" would mean substantial extra costs and continued disruption and expense to industry and the public.

The committee recommended that clear backlog of work funds should, if necessary, be diverted from new construction.

Committee of Public Accounts report on Department of Transport's Expenditure on Trunk Roads (Stationery Office: £4.80).

Catamaran to enter Solent ferry service

Britain's first sea-going catamaran ferry is to open between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight over the Easter weekend.

The 470-passenger craft, built in Tasmania for Sealink, will halve the Solent crossing time to 15 minutes and enable the traditional service, which carries 1.8 million passengers a year, to fight hovercraft competition. Mr James Sherwood, Sealink's chairman, said that hovercraft had been considered, but would have cost 10 times as much as the £1.7 million catamaran to buy and operate.

Pupil carried home live mortar bomb

Schoolboys and teachers from the Lancaster area were criticized by the police when they returned from a trip to the Normandy beaches with war souvenirs.

One youngster, aged 12, from Lancaster Royal Grammar School, had carried a primed, unexploded mortar bomb across the Channel. Others had brought home rocket-type shells and cartridge cases.

The mortar bomb, described by Army experts as "highly dangerous", was blown up in a controlled explosion yesterday.

example, may find their best pupils are enticed to the Reading grammar schools.

At a High Court hearing last week, Berkshire County Council agreed to take no further action on the new measures until the parents' case had been heard.

Mr David Sanders, a council spokesman, said: "We normally send out letters telling children which school they will be going to on the last day of the spring term. We cannot now do this until the High Court case has been heard."

Pupils in limbo over schools

Berkshire primary school pupils who will be moving up to secondary school this autumn are unsure of which schools they will be attending because of a High Court battle between parents and the local education authority.

The county council announced yesterday that it could not tell children leaving primary school this summer which secondary school they would be going to in September under the High Court hearing is finished.

The court battle comes after a decision by the Conserva-

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45-49	49-53	24327	38769	41820	59396
50-54	54-58	24787	39992	42599	60000
55-59	59-63	25247	41215	43378	60604
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130-134	134-138	32147	59560	55063	69664
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140-144	144-148	33067	62006	56621	70872
145-149	149-153	33527	63229	57400	71476
150-154	154-158	33987	64452	58179	72080
155-159	159-163	34447	65675	58958	72684
160-164	164-168	34907	66898	59737	73288
165-169	169-173	35367	68121	60516	73892
170-174	174-178	35827	69344	61295	74496
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Mitterrand wins first skirmish with Chirac over two enabling Bills

Less than a week after the formation of France's first "cohabitation" Government under the Fifth Republic, President Mitterrand and his right-wing Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, have had their first skirmish, resulting in an apparent victory for M. Mitterrand.

Immediately after being appointed Prime Minister, last Thursday, M. Chirac had announced his intention of introducing two enabling Bills. These were to allow the Government to bypass Parliament and legislate by decree, in order to bring back majority voting and to introduce a series of economic measures, including the abolition of the requirement on employers to obtain government approval before declaring any workers redundant.

It had been assumed that M

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Chirac had already obtained M. Mitterrand's agreement to sign the necessary decrees. However, M. Mitterrand said at yesterday's Cabinet meeting that he would accept only a limited number of decrees on specific topics "in order that Parliament's rights should be respected."

In particular, he would not sign any decrees in the field of social affairs and industrial relations which, in his view, did not represent an advance on what had already been achieved by the Socialists, M. Michel Vauzelle, the Elysee Palace spokesman, said.

The first casualty of that implicit presidential "veto" is M. Chirac's proposal to abolish by decree the requirement to obtain prior approval for redundancies. That will now be introduced in the form of a Bill.

Asked if the President had specifically opposed the enactment by decree of the proposed reform, M. Alain Juppé, who has just been appointed the government spokesman, in addition to his responsibilities as Minister for the Budget, replied: "I would say that the discussion had been frank, to use the diplomatic formula."

During yesterday's Cabinet meeting, the second since the formation of the new administration, M. Chirac outlined the Government's proposed programme, which he said was based on three priorities: economic recovery in order to create new jobs; the re-establishment of majority voting, and law and order and the development of individual liberties.

M. Mitterrand announced his intention to exercise his constitutional prerogative and send a message to Parliament at the opening of the new session on April 2. It will probably be M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, a former Gaullist Prime Minister, who will read the message, in his expected capacity as president of the new Assembly. Under the constitution, the President is not allowed to address Parliament.



M. Chirac arriving for yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Nicaragua mocks Reagan 'ploy'

Honduras attacks denied

From John Carlin, Mexico City

The Nicaraguan Army Chief of Staff has denied White House reports that Sandinista troops attacked Contra camps inside Honduran territory, saying that this is yet another ploy by President Reagan to win his controversial bid for \$100 million (£66.6 million) in aid to the Contra rebels, who seek the overthrow of the Nicaraguan Government.

"What they (the White House) are trying to do is create an artificial conflict between Nicaragua and Honduras in order to win approval for dollars and support for the Contras," Commander Joaquin Cuadra said.

"Reagan wants everyone to think Nicaragua is invading Honduras, but those who are

invading Honduras are the Contras and the North American Army," he said.

The US currently has 4,000 troops in Honduras taking part in the latest of a series of joint military manoeuvres with the Honduran Army over the last three years. The presence of the US Army on the Honduran border has long been denounced as "a provocation" by the left-wing Sandinista Government.

Commander Cuadra denied that Nicaraguan troops had ever crossed into Honduras, although he did admit the Nicaraguan Army had on occasions shelled Contra positions across the border.

At the moment, he said, there was fighting near the border with Honduras as Con-

tra columns — more than 8,000 Contras are estimated to be trapped in their Honduran camps — try to penetrate Nicaraguan territory.

On Tuesday there also appeared to have been some confusion in Honduran government circles. Government spokesmen initially denied knowledge of a Nicaraguan incursion but after President Reagan had pledged \$30 million in emergency military aid to the Honduran Army, they came into line.

● **TEGUCIGALPA:** Nicaraguan troops have begun pulling out of Honduras after several days of clashes with Contra rebels on Honduran soil, US embassy and Honduran military sources said here last night (Reuters reports).

Fighting backs case for Contra aid

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States yesterday began air-lifting Honduran troops to the border with Nicaragua amid claims by the Reagan Administration that at least 800 Sandinista soldiers were trapped inside Honduras and were being ravaged by 3,000 American-backed guerrillas.

Although the Nicaraguan Government continued to deny that its troops were in Honduras, reports from the region gave credence to American claims that 1,500 Nicaraguan

soldiers had mounted attacks on rebel bases 12 to 16 miles inside Honduran territory.

But there were no reliable independent accounts on the intensity of the fighting which the White House is anxious to play up in order to strengthen President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for the guerrillas.

The Republican-controlled Senate, which began debating the request yesterday, is likely to vote in favour of the aid today. The Democrat-con-

trolled House of Representatives last week rejected the request and is due to vote next month on its own plan for possible aid to the guerrillas.

US military officials said 100 Sandinista soldiers — belonging to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest of the Contra groups — had been killed up to yesterday.

The White House said Honduran soldiers were being ferried to the border in American helicopters but that US troops would not get involved.

Communist leadership stamps out dissent

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The leadership of the French Communist Party has succeeded since again in imposing its hardline view and closing down on the growing pressure for reform within the party following the Communist's abysmal showing in last week's election.

In the end, only five members of the party's 142-member Central Committee, whose two-day meeting ended at midnight on Tuesday, refused to vote for the leadership's report, in which the Socialists' alleged right-wing policies were blamed for the

Communists' latest setback.

The message was clear: no criticism of the leadership, its analysis of the reasons for the party's decline, or its proposals for the future was to be tolerated. M. Pierre Juquin, former party spokesman and now a leading *révolutaire*, was criticised for his "attitude in contradiction with party rules during the election campaign".

M. Juquin was the only member of the Central Committee to vote against the final resolution put to the committee. However, four others abstained.

Reagan's plea on budget snubbed

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Republican-controlled Senate has defeated by one vote President Reagan's top priority call for a constitutional amendment requiring the US to have an annual balanced budget beginning in 1991.

The vote, on Tuesday night, was 63-34 and fell only one short of the two-thirds necessary to pass an amendment to the American Constitution.

Despite last-minute appeals from President Reagan, the vote reversed one taken four years ago, when the Senate approved a balanced budget constitutional amendment. But a similar proposal in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives that year failed by 66 votes to get the needed two-thirds margin.

Even if the Senate had passed the amendment on Tuesday its outlook was considered cloudy. It would have needed the approval of the House where opposition remains strong.

Any proposed amendment to the constitution passing the

House and Senate also requires ratification by three-quarters of the 50 states.

It is always difficult to change the basic law of the United States. Only 26 amendments to the constitution have been ratified. The last was in 1971 making 18 the uniform voting age throughout the country.

Senate opponents of the budget amendment argued that the ban would impose discipline on Congress when it votes on spending Bills. But critics claimed that it could hinder government decision-making and planning.

The US, which is expected to incur an estimated \$205 billion deficit this year, has been spending more than its revenues annually since the budget was last in balance in 1969. Some critics argued that a new budget measure adopted last year, requiring Congress to set annual deficit targets, should be given a chance before Congress embarks on a constitutionally mandated plan.

Britons to stay in detention

Harare — The Zimbabwe High Court yesterday dismissed an application for the release of two Britons, Phillip Hartlebury and Colin Evans, former intelligence officers, who are being detained for allegedly spying for South Africa (Jan Raath writes).

It also dismissed an appeal for the release of two senior customs officers in detention, Kenneth Harper and John Austin, who are also accused of spying for South Africa. Their counsel says the state has no shred of evidence against them.

● **Frank links:** Two parliamentary reports have linked Dr Herbert Ushwekumbe, the Minister of Transport, one of Zimbabwe's most powerful and popular politicians, with a scandal over the fraudulent sale of property in Botswana belonging to the Zimbabwe national railways company.

Belgrade gloom on debt aid

Belgrade — Anglo-Yugoslav talks, which the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said at the end of a 24-hour visit were substantive and worthwhile, have given fresh impetus to the traditionally good relationship (Dessa Trevisan writes).

But the failure to get more than a verbal assurance that London would consider sympathetically a Belgrade request to refinance its external debt came as a disappointment. Negotiations with 16 Western governments are pending and, apart from Britain and the US, who remain reserved, most have responded favourably to Belgrade.

Sir Geoffrey said that Britain would respond "constructively", but made it clear that a final decision would depend on the outcome of Yugoslavia's new talks with the IMF in May.

Pretoria and Lesotho seek a lasting peace

From Michael Horvath, Johannesburg

South Africa and Lesotho agreed yesterday that "lasting peace and stability" were of primary importance for their economic development, and undertook not to "allow their territories to be used for the planning and execution of acts of terrorism against the other".

This was proclaimed in a joint statement issued after talks in Cape Town between President Botha and a Lesotho delegation led by Major General Mphahlele Lekhanya, chairman of the Military Council established after the previous government of Chief Leabana Jonathan was overthrown on January 28.

It was General Lekhanya's

first visit to South Africa since the coup, and the first visit by a Lesotho head of government in 20 years. It appears to have cemented the much more friendly relations that have prevailed between South Africa and Lesotho since Chief Jonathan was removed.

The statement said that "a main feature" of yesterday's talks was the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, an ambitious scheme for diverting the head waters of the Orange River, which rises in Lesotho, to feed the water-short Transvaal and at the same time generate hydro-electric power inside Lesotho. It has been pronounced feasible in a two-year study just completed.

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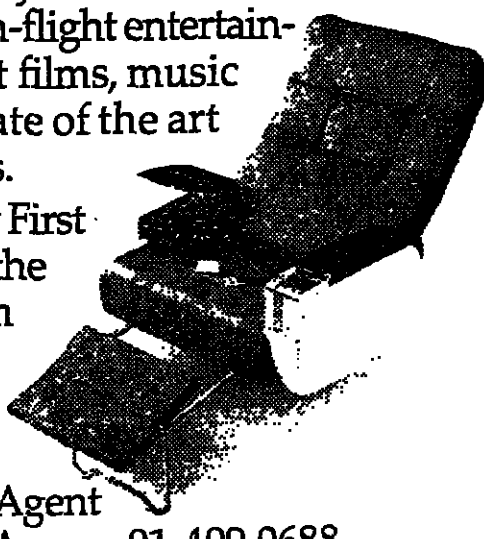
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Paper prints war crimes file naming Waldheim

Belgrade (Reuters) — A Yugoslav newspaper yesterday published a document naming Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former United Nations Secretary General, as a Nazi war criminal wanted in connection with murders, massacres and the shooting of hostages.

The document, issued by the Yugoslav State Commission on War Crimes on December 18, 1947, was published by *Vecernje Novosti*. Excerpts were later carried by Tanjug, the country's official news agency.

Vecernje Novosti said it obtained the document from Yugoslav archives, where a full dossier on Wehrmacht First Lieutenant Kurt Waldheim was filed under the number F-25572.

The paper said Yugoslavia had sent the document to the International War Crimes Commission in London in December 1947.

Its top page, reproduced by *Vecernje Novosti* in facsimile, said Dr Waldheim was in the IC Department of the German 'E' Army Headquarters under General Alexander Lohr. It accused him of "mur-

der, slaughter, shooting of hostages, demolition and destruction of property, and burning of villages".

It said the unit, in which Dr Waldheim worked from April 1944, played a key role in deciding on retaliatory measures against Yugoslav partisans.

Tanjug said: "Waldheim is said to have been responsible not only for carrying out these measures but also for issuing his own criminal orders". It said this was substantiated by the testimony of Herr Johann Meier, a close associate of Dr Waldheim, enclosed in the file.

Tanjug said Dr Waldheim had admitted in a telephone interview with *Vecernje Novosti* that he knew Yugoslavia had once accused him of war crimes. He claimed however that the Yugoslav list of war criminals included every German officer who took part in World War Two on Yugoslav territory.

"I repeat, I was not responsible for a single war crime on your territory," Dr Waldheim was quoted as saying.



An injured woman is helped to safety after yesterday's car bomb explosion in east Beirut.

Bomb blasts kill eight in Beirut

Beirut — Eight people were killed and more than 80 were wounded in two attacks in the Christian sector of Beirut yesterday when there was an abrupt escalation of violence.

A bomb and a car packed with about 440lb of dynamite exploded within two hours in the Furn el-Shubbak and

Ashrafieh districts, near two offices of Christian President Amin Gemayel's right-wing Phalange Party. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, the latest in a series of bombings since Syrian-backed Christian and Muslim militias launched a campaign to oust Mr Gemayel.

Shortly after the blasts, rockets fired by Muslim militiamen into East Beirut killed two more civilians and wounded 15, including four women, according to police.

The rocket attack coincided with artillery battles around Mr Gemayel's home town of Bikfaya, 10 miles north-east of Beirut.

War of words after Libya-US clash

Suicide missions urged as Arab leaders close ranks

From Our Correspondent, Nicosia

A Libyan commentator yesterday called on the Arab world to form suicide squads to attack American interests "wherever they may be" in retaliation for the US military action against Libya.

In a statement on Tripoli radio, the anonymous commentator urged that the Arab nation transform itself "in its entirety into suicide squads and into human bombs". He added: "Let your missiles and suicide cells pursue American terrorist embassies and interests wherever they may be."

The call for retaliatory action came as US warships continued their manoeuvres off the Libyan coast yesterday and Arab leaders closed ranks behind Colonel Gaddafi.

There were no further reports — either from the Pentagon or on Tripoli radio — of confrontations in the Gulf of Sirte, which Libya claims as territorial waters but the US insists is international sea. On Monday and Tuesday more than two dozen US aircraft carriers and warships fired at four Libyan patrol boats, sinking three and damaging the other, and twice bombed a radar installation near the Libyan town of Sirte.

Libya has threatened retaliation, with Colonel Gaddafi pledging that "our brave confrontation will continue", and

the Foreign Ministry saying that "we in Libya will consider any American target and the American and Mediterranean bases hostile targets, which we will confront".

The Soviet Union, a leading arms supplier to Libya, and many Arab leaders — ranging from the heads of radical

telephoned Colonel Gaddafi on Tuesday and said that the kingdom "put all its resources at the disposal of the Libyan people" in their defence against the Americans.

Other pledges of support came from King Hassan of Morocco, who has a treaty of friendship with Libya, and from Syrian President Hafez Assad, who, with Colonel Gaddafi, supports Iran in its long-running war with Iraq, Jans said.

President Assad's telephone calls to Colonel Gaddafi on Monday and Tuesday were followed yesterday by a Syrian Cabinet statement describing the US military action as "an act of provocation", adding that it "constitutes a dangerous aspect of political and military terrorism being practised by the United States against the entire Arab nation".

The Arab leaders were thus adding their voices to the protest issued late on Tuesday night by the Arab League in Tunis.

The strongest denunciations came from Palestinian factions. In Damascus, the Abu Nidal group issued a statement saying that "anything American has become, from now on, a target for our revolutionaries".

Kremlin fails to back rhetoric

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The fierce Soviet rhetoric and lack of any accompanying action prompted by this week's military clashes between the US and Libya in the Gulf of Sirte have highlighted the often uncomfortable relationship between the Kremlin and Colonel Gaddafi, one of its closest allies in the Arab world.

Not for the first time since recent tensions between Washington and Tripoli were exacerbated by the December outrages at Rome and Vienna airports, a senior Kremlin spokesman has firmed publicly on the Libyan leader's behalf but balked at offering any additional Soviet military commitment to assist him in his confrontation with the US.

The difficulties in the relationship were exposed in an unprecedented fashion last October when the unpredictable colonel paid a three-day visit to Moscow and again failed to secure the long-delayed treaty of friendship and cooperation which he had hoped would be on offer from Mr Gorbachov.

Instead, behind a series of less than normally fulsome communiqués, it was learnt from Arab sources that the Libyan leader received what amounted to what one diplomat described as "a dressing down" from Mr Gorbachov, who expressed particular annoyance that Soviet-supplied missiles were finding their way from Libya to Iran for use against Iraq, another Soviet ally.

Other causes of friction during the visit — marred by the mysterious failure of Colonel Gaddafi to turn up at a Kremlin reception arranged for him — were said to have included the Colonel's belligerent stubbornness on the whole Arab-Israeli question and his support for international terrorists.

The visit came at a time when the Kremlin leadership was working behind the scenes to improve its standing among moderate Arab states, with the aim of securing the Soviet

Union a place at any future Middle East peace negotiations. According to the Arab sources, another problematic issue at the talks in the Kremlin was Libya's large debt to Moscow, conservatively estimated at \$4 billion.

It is understood that the Libyan leader attempted to secure more favourable terms for repayment. One US official later described some of the exchanges between the two supposed allies as "acrimonious", with Colonel Gaddafi adding assistance with a projected Libyan nuclear reactor to the unsuccessful shopping list which he brought from Tripoli.

Although reports from Beirut last month suggested that the friendship treaty which has eluded the Colonel since its signature was first said to be "imminent" three years ago, might soon be forthcoming in view of his growing difficulties with President Reagan, it has yet to materialize.

The Kremlin is quite happy to speak out toughly on Libya's behalf, but the signs are that Mr Gorbachov has too much on his plate to risk any greater Soviet involvement on Colonel Gaddafi's behalf, one senior diplomat said yesterday.

He added: "Reading the signals, it seems that although the Soviet authorities do not go so far as those in the West who regard Colonel Gaddafi as a 'madman', they are well aware of the wilder side of his character and are wary about how far they back him."

The Kremlin's caution, well disguised behind a barrage of verbal pyrotechnics against imperialism and US "banditry", is considered by foreign observers to be the dominant aspect of its Libyan policy in the latest crisis. But it is acknowledged here that this could quickly change in the face of greatly stepped-up US military involvement.

"Gorbachov is treading a narrow line which has both advantages and risks", a Middle East expert explained.

UK terror warning by Howe

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday put Britain on alert against the possibility of retaliatory attacks by Colonel Gaddafi's hit squads (Richard Evans writes).

His warning came after reports from the United States that Britain could become a prime target for Libyan revenge missions because of the large number of American tourists now here.

Sir Geoffrey, who was speaking at a Fulham by-election press conference, was questioned about the potential threat to Britain and said: "There can be no justification for a threat or for an act of that kind."

"But we know sadly, from our own experience, that we have to take a particular and continuous care to protect ourselves as far as we can against a threat of that kind."

TV crews' plane put to flight

Washington (AFP) — A small plane chartered by American television networks to fly over the naval forces in the Mediterranean was intercepted by US Navy jets and told to leave the area.

Chartered by CBS, CNN and NBC in Italy, the aircraft was flying near the US Sixth Fleet when two Navy jets told it to remain well clear.

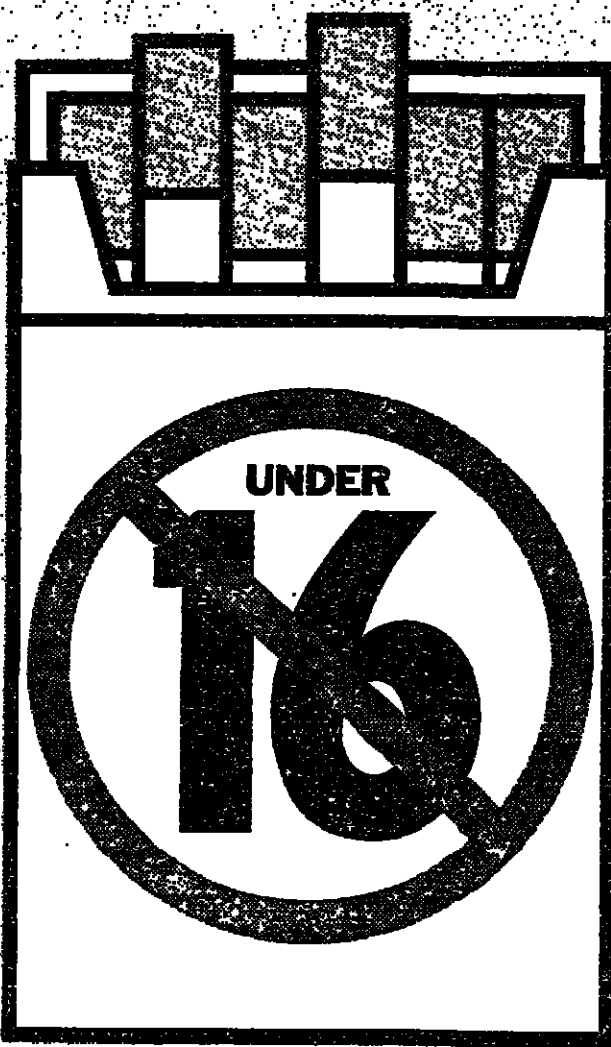
Ships threat

Washington (AFP) — The Libyan air force chief threatened to destroy three US aircraft carriers unless US forces stopped their aggressive acts. The *Washington Post* said the commander of the Sixth Fleet received the message hours before US warships first crossed the "line of death" drawn by Colonel Gaddafi across the Gulf of Sirte. The message ended: "Maintain in peace; you will leave in peace."

Self-defence

Islamabad (Reuters) — The US Attorney-General, Mr Edwin Meese, said the Sixth Fleet had acted only after a "series of Libyan surface-to-air missile attacks endangered US planes and warships".

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Manila ready to charge Marcos

From Keith Dalton
Manila

Philippine officials said yesterday that they will bring criminal charges against deposed President Ferdinand Marcos in the hope of gaining access to his Swiss bank accounts earlier ordered frozen by the Swiss Government.

A special envoy, Mr Pedro Yap, will begin judicial moves in Bern, the Swiss capital, to extend indefinitely the freeze order, which includes all assets belonging to Mr Marcos, his family and companies.

The unprecedented hold order was transmitted to six banks. One bank is believed to hold a \$800 million (\$533.3 million) deposit of Mr Marcos, the Commission on Good Government sources said recently.

Criminal charges against Mr Marcos will be filed on the return to Manila next week of Mr Jovito Salonga, the commission chairman. Mr Salonga is optimistic that he has sufficient evidence, obtained in the United States, to prove to Swiss authorities that the former President's money was illegally obtained, the senior commissioner, Mr Raul Daza, said.

To gain access to the accounts, the commission must supply evidence that the assets were obtained by means also considered illegal in Switzerland. Mr Daza told a press conference.

The commission has already linked the former President



Mr Radolfo Canaja, aged 54, one of 92 Filipino workers released in Zaire after being taken hostage in Angola by Unita rebels, is embraced by his wife and daughter at Manila airport

with property and business interests in the US totalling at least \$1 billion, Mr Daza said. A conservative estimate of his sequestered assets in the Philippines was \$150 million.

President Aquino, who ordered the inquiry, was yesterday denounced as a "dictator" for abolishing the 190-member National Assembly and

establishing a provisional government.

Eighty former assemblymen, including 15 parliamentarians who had campaigned for Mrs Aquino in last month's election, said her decision to abolish the assembly robbed the Filipino people of their elected representatives and stripped assemblymen of office while only one third through their six-year term.

● GENEVA: Mr Yap's imminent arrival in Bern was one reason for the Swiss Government ordering a freeze on any funds in six banks held in the name of the Marcoses or anyone closely associated with them (Alan McGregor writes).

The other reason, officials said, was attempts being made to transfer money out of Switzerland in President Marcos's name. The banks,

Swiss and foreign, were not identified, but are regarded by the Government as "likely" to be involved.

The Swiss Cabinet meeting yesterday was attended by Mr Hermann Bodenmann, president of the Official Banking Commission. Shortly afterwards it was announced that the freeze had been extended to "other banking establishments".

The Philippines authorities say that about \$2 billion should be in Switzerland on the basis of information contained in the 2,300 documents carried by the Marcoses when they left Manila and seized by US Customs on arrival in Honolulu. The documents give origins and amounts.

Because of this flood of information, the matter is far more out in the open than was the case with assets belonging to Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, the Shah of Iran, or the former Nicaraguan President, Señor Anastasio Somoza. With those, banking secrecy remained intact, so the Ethiopian Government is believed finally to have got about \$100 million.

Also, the Aquino Government has US support, in addition to being well regarded by the Swiss Government. The banks' essential requirement for opening their books is that legal proceedings in proper form be instituted regarding an offence recognized in the Swiss penal code. Appropriation of public funds would be in that category.

Argentina recalls 1976 coup with strike

From a Correspondent
Buenos Aires

The tenth anniversary of the military coup that overthrew the Peronist Government of Isabel Martínez de Perón and made Argentina one of the world's human rights pariahs was marked by a small demonstration and preparations for the following day's general strike.

The strike, the fifth since the return of civilian government and the second this year, received support from the leader of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Señora Hebe de Bonafini who, speaking before an estimated crowd of 10,000, repudiated the "dictatorship that took over to rob, rape, torture, murder and oppress the people."

The human rights leader castigated the 27-month-old civilian Government of President Alfonsín for raising armed forces' salaries and failing to condemn leading figures from the military Government. She pledged support for the workers' demands.

Tuesday's strike, called by the General Confederation of Labour to demand wage concessions, was less successful than the January strike. Official Government figures put support at 60.87 per cent, down from 86 per cent two months ago.

Sikh chief escapes as riot kills seven

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The moderate Sikh Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, had a narrow escape yesterday in a clash between his supporters and Sikh extremists, which left seven people dead and 22 injured.

The clash occurred on one of the main holidays of the Indian calendar. On this day, which marks the end of winter in northern India and the start of the hot weather, Sikh leaders gather at the holy city of Anandpur Sahib, where the last Sikh guru baptized his followers.

Yesterday there were two meetings: one to be addressed by Mr Surjit Singh and other Punjab ministers; and another, much larger, organized by members of the Damdami Taksal, the religious group once headed by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the extremist leader killed in the siege of the Golden Temple of Amritsar in 1984.

The Damdami Taksal extremists threatened that if one

of their leaders was not released from arrest they would not allow Mr Surjit Singh's meeting to take place. As they saw him and his Finance Minister, Mr Balwant Singh, arrive at the stand, 400 yards from their own, a cry went up to blockade him.

Police moved in with tear gas and batons, and there was a confused period in which firing was alleged by both sides. The Tourism Minister had a narrow escape when extremists fired at his car. Eventually police opened fire on the militants.

The deaths are bound to cause further trouble in the state as the young hotheads of the All-India Sikh Students' Federation and the United Akali Dal, the activist splinter of the Sikh party, take up the cause of the dead as martyrs. Mr Surjit Singh, who had begun to speak as the mob moved towards him, last night issued a statement condemning the violation of the holy congregation by the "murderous assault".

Air India crash suspect freed

Ottawa — One of two Canadian Sikhs charged with possessing explosives has been discharged by a court in Duncan, British Columbia (John Best writes).

Judge Robert Metzger released Talwinder Singh Parmar, aged 42, after the prosecutor said expected evidence had not "materialized". The hearing of the second defendant, Inderjit Singh Reyat, aged 34, was continuing yesterday.

The two were arrested in November in connection with the crash of an Air India jet

First step towards US-Polish thaw

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

A high-ranking emissary from the United States has held lengthy talks with General Jaruzelski, the Polish Head of State, taking the first step towards thawing the icy relations between Washington and Warsaw.

A US Embassy spokesman yesterday confirmed that Mr Walter Stoessel, a former Deputy Secretary of State, had met General Jaruzelski and other government officials during a "private" stay in Warsaw last week.

The Americans emphasize the unofficial character of the visit. Mr Stoessel has retired from the foreign service and, as a former ambassador to Warsaw, he still has many private ties with Poland.

But the ambassador's visit was clearly more than a stint of nostalgic tourism. Although General Jaruzelski had a senior Soviet guest — Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Foreign Minister — and was expecting Warsaw Pact foreign ministers for important consultations, he set aside several hours for Mr Stoessel.

The unusual sight of the US head of mission's elongated official car outside a Polish Foreign Ministry fluttering with Soviet flags spawned the

first rumours of a breakthrough in relations.

Mr Stoessel also ranks as rather more than an old-age pensioner. He headed the US delegation to the recent cultural forum in Budapest, and is regarded in Washington as one of the most skilled practitioners in East-West contacts.

US-Polish relations were one of the main casualties of the fractured links between East and West. Since the Soviet-American summit in Geneva the frosty relations seem to have made little sense. When Poland lifted martial law and amnestied several hundred political prisoners it answered some of Washington's main complaints.

The United States, in turn, has removed most of its economic sanctions against Poland, and it now seems certain that Warsaw will be allowed into the International Monetary Fund this year. But still the two countries are locked into several bitter, minor rows, such as a protocol argument over accepting a new US ambassador.

Mr Stoessel, who also met the Polish Primate, Cardinal Glemp, may have lifted US-Polish relations on to a more interesting plane.

Spanish police chief cleared after appeal

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

To the delight of Spain's police, the Supreme Court has absolved the former chief of anti-terrorist squads, who had been found guilty by a lower court of refusing to disclose the names of three gunmen, believed to be anti-terrorist hit-men, whom he had released after a shooting incident.

However, a spokesman for Spain's Judges for Democracy movement said the judgement created "extraordinary risks" by apparently reducing "the already restricted powers the courts exercise over increasingly autonomous police forces".

"I am defending the state," Señor Manuel Ballesteros, the chief of the anti-terrorist squads for four years during Centre Democrat governments, told the appeal court.

The five judges found unanimously that the 50-year-old Police Commissioner had not acted with malice when he declined six times to give an investigating magistrate the names of three hired gunmen and acquitted him.

The men had been held responsible by the lower court for a shooting incident in which two people were killed and ten others injured in a bar

frequented by Spanish Basques in Hendaye, across the French frontier, in November 1980.

Señor Ballesteros ordered the men set free without charges after they crashed through the Spanish frontier post shortly after the shootings in a car with false number-plates.

The Supreme Court justified the Commissioner's "error", bearing in mind his capacity as confidante of "necessaries in the anti-terrorist struggle" — as the judges described the three men — and the need to uphold morale among police subordinates.

The court quashed the ruling of a San Sebastian court in May last year sentencing the anti-terrorist chief to three years' suspension from all police duties for failing to collaborate with justice.

That ruling marked the first time since the advent of democracy in 1977 that a Spanish police chief had been so punished. It provoked intense disaffection among senior police in Madrid, and when the appeal came before the Supreme Court both Interior Ministry officials and the chief public prosecutor backed Señor Ballesteros.

Canada dollar note replaced by nickel coin

Ottawa — The Canadian \$1 note is to be replaced after 117 years of service by an 11-sided, gold-coloured coin (John Best writes).

The first of 300 million new coin dollars, made of nickel, will appear in January, the rest following over three years. The dollar note will be withdrawn during 1989, after which it will no longer be legal tender.

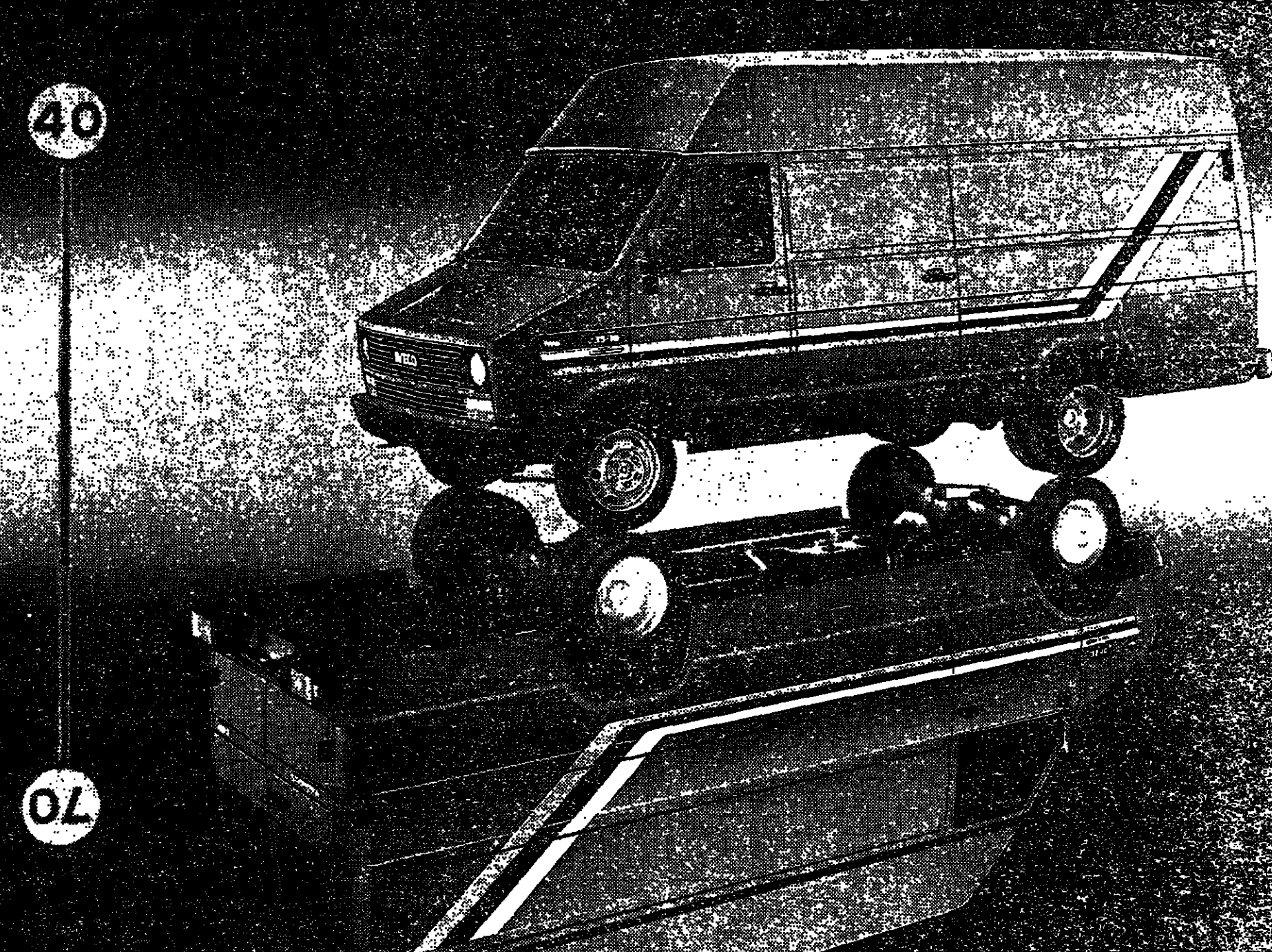
Announcing the change this week, Mr Stewart McInnes, Minister of Supply and Services, said that two surveys in the last three years indicated that most Canadians favoured a coin dollar.

Lahore needy cause Mother Theresa grief

Islamabad — Mother Teresa, who is in Lahore to see some of Pakistan's projects for handicapped children, could barely hide her grief when she learnt that only 1,500 of an estimated 75,000 mentally retarded children in the Punjab capital are receiving medical attention (Hasan Akhtar writes).

It is only in recent years that decent, scientifically-run centres have been established in Pakistan in place of Dickensian-like orphanages. According to a Lahore press report, Mother Teresa quivered in agony but remained silent when she heard the figures.

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Troubled New Zealand opposition party drops unpopular leader

From Richard Long, Wellington

New Zealand's troubled opposition National Party yesterday dumped its leader, Mr Jim Bolger, aged 41, a lawyer. It replaced him with a conservative farmer and father of nine, Mr Jim Bolger, aged 53, the former deputy leader.

One of the party's most experienced former Cabinet ministers, Mr George Gair, aged 59, was elected as the new deputy. Mr Bolger was seen as a victim of the opinion polls, and the coup at yesterday's meeting of the party caucus came as no great surprise.

Mr Bolger, who succeeded Sir Robert Muldoon 16 months ago, after the National Party lost a general election, had in recent months been setting new records for low polling figures, dropping to only 3.2 per cent support as the preferred Prime Minister.

This compared with the 16 per cent for Sir Robert Muldoon, the man he ousted, 32 per cent for the Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, and 6 per cent for Mr Bolger.

While a coup attempt, against Mr Bolger failed last year, officials said MPs were unnerved by the continued poor showing of Mr Bolger, and that this was exaggerated

by the concern shown at party branch annual meetings.

Sir Robert has also waged a campaign of criticism against Mr Bolger. When Mr Bolger responded by sending Sir Robert to the back-bench in October, Sir Robert fumed: "It's just the latest action by a panic-stricken leader, who now, I think, has reached the stage when it's not just a question of whether he goes, but when. It is a crazy reaction which indicates he is totally unfit to lead the National Party."

The leadership changeover was viewed with concern by some party officials who saw it as part of a battle on economic philosophy.

Mr Bolger had led the free market faction in the national caucus, while Mr Bolger in recent speeches had backed a return to a policy of selective intervention. This had gained strong support in rural constituencies hard-hit by the free-market policies of Mr Roger Douglas, the Labour Government's Finance Minister.

Some National Party officials considered Mr Bolger would have to take a cautious line or would risk turning the party into a New Zealand version of the Australian Na-

tional Party — a party of the rural rump with little urban support. To regain power, the National Party had to win back urban electorates and also gain business support, they warned.

Mr Bolger, a conservative catholic and father of nine, represents the central North Island electorate of King Country. In his last Cabinet post he held the labour portfolio and guided a controversial voluntary unionism Bill through Parliament against angry union opposition. He has strongly opposed homosexual and abortion law reform.

Mr Bolger said after yesterday's secret vote that he would support Mr Bolger.

Meanwhile, in another development in a day of political turmoil, the small New Zealand Party, which contested the last election in protest at Sir Robert Muldoon's interventionist economic policies, said that it was merging with the National Party.

This was an important move for the National Party as the NZP, while gaining only 12.5 per cent of the vote and no seats, was instrumental in causing the NP to lose a string of key marginal seats — and the election.



President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt greeting Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who arrived in Cairo for talks yesterday.

Bangladeshi girls sold as slaves

Delhi (AFP) — Slave runners are smuggling Bangladeshi girls into India to be sold in Pakistan and Gulf countries as concubines, aid workers have charged here.

Indian couples also sell their daughters for money, Mr Dharendra Pratap of the All-India Students for Democracy, said. His organization rescued a 17-year-old Bangladeshi girl when it broke up a slave-running racket here last month.

She described how Pakistani agents told her she was to be sold and that she should accompany them to her new master. She managed to escape at a Delhi railway station.

A girl normally fetches 5,000 rupees (about £270), Mr Pratap said. If she has a fair complexion, the price is doubled. It is believed that as many as 10 girls a month are sold in Delhi. The number is higher in towns closer to the Indo-Pakistan border.

In addition to Pakistan, the girls are being sent to Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, Mr Pratap alleged.

Police officials privately admit the existence of the traffic in female slaves, but will not divulge official figures on it. The Bangladesh Government, which says it has heard the allegations before, denies them and insists that none of its nationals arrive in India clandestinely.

China to double borrowings from overseas

Peking (AFP) — China will more than double its foreign borrowings this year while trying to strengthen its control over foreign debt and commercial borrowings, senior Chinese officials said yesterday.

In his annual budget speech to the National People's Congress, Mr Wang Bingqian, the Finance Minister, said foreign loans would account for 5.5 billion yuan (about £1.1 billion) of the state's receipts, up from 2.5 billion yuan in 1985.

Mr Song Ping, the State Planning Minister, said foreign trade would total about £38 billion, down from about £40 billion last year, with increased exports and decreased imports to achieve a basic balance in foreign exchange.

China's record trade deficit of about £10 billion in 1985 was not mentioned by either minister.

Grain production, which dropped from a record 407 million tons in 1984 to 378 million tons last year, was forecast to reach at least 400 million tons through a moderate increase in agricultural investment and economic policies to assist grain growers.

Defence spending was budgeted at about £4 billion. Military analysts, however, said the figure, up by about £84 million, underestimated

total military spending because much of it was classified under other budget categories.

The increased foreign borrowings will be a mere fraction of the £44 billion 1986 balanced budget. Western bankers said they were still likely to be official loans from the World Bank and other governments, short-term commercial loans and a handful of Chinese bonds floated overseas.

State control over foreign commercial borrowings was to be strengthened with the Bank of China, the foreign exchange bank, having the main responsibility for contracting foreign commercial loans.

Analysts said the combination of increased borrowings and tighter control reflected a compromise between economists in favour of more borrowing and traditionalists opposing to going into debt.

Average urban wages will rise 7 per cent during 1985, as will the per capita net income in rural areas. Urban prices will be kept basically stable, however, and special attention will be given to the prices of vegetables and other major commodities.

Interest rates will go up on national savings bonds, the mandatory purchase of which brings frequent complaints.

State aid to underdeveloped areas will total about £167 million.

Turmoil in Liberia

Challenge mounts to rule of Doe

From Richard Everett Monrovia

The political situation in Liberia is deteriorating rapidly in the wake of last week's student riots and the burning of a rally called by the opposition parties, according to diplomats here.

"People have reached breaking point," a veteran Liberian journalist said. He noted that a variety of protest measures were being considered by Liberians opposed to the Government of President Samuel Doe.

The tensions date back to last October's elections. Despite official denials, it is widely believed here that General Doe used intimidation and vote-rigging to secure a victory for himself and his National Democratic Party of Liberia, which gained a majority in the new civilian legislature.

Frustration over the election results is said to have been a contributing factor to the abortive November coup attempt led by former General Thomas Quiwonkpa, who died in the fighting.

A new constitution came into effect on January 6, when General Doe was inaugurated as civilian President, and opposition politicians say this has encouraged them to seek freedoms denied under the military regime he used to head.

In the past two weeks a banned newspaper has reappeared, the banned United People's Party has said it will resume political activities, three other opposition parties have formed a "grand coalition" and teachers have gone on strike over salary arrears dating back to December.

The teachers' walk-out triggered riots by pupils who, frustrated by last class time and steadily declining examination results, staged a protest march.

School pupils carrying anti-private school and anti-gov-

ernment placards attacked private schools that had remained open despite the strike, smashing windows and forcing pupils and teachers out of the classrooms. They also overturned cars and erected barricades in the streets causing thousands of dollars in damage.

President Doe called out the Army and soldiers dispersed the pupils with whips and tear gas. The President then announced the immediate closure of all schools for Easter break.

The opposition Liberia Action Party, the Unity Party and the Liberia Unification Party decided to hold a joint mass rally of their recently formed grand coalition. However, the government filed a writ of prohibition in the courts against the rally organizers and threatened to take the "maximum security measures necessary".

The opposition said it would pursue legal means to get permission for the rally, but sources close to the grand coalition said there could be a call for a general strike later this week.

"This is the beginning of the end for Doe," a diplomat said, claiming that "it is no longer a question of if, but when."



President Doe called out troops against pupils.

Editor defends Reuter journalist ordered out

Singapore (Reuters) — Reuter correspondent Marilyn Odchimar left for Hong Kong yesterday after the Singapore Government had accused her of irresponsible reporting, revoked her employment pass, and given her 48 hours to leave.

She was ordered out because of a story she wrote on March 18 quoting a survivor of a Singapore hotel collapse as saying he heard a rescue worker demand money from a dying woman before trying to save her.

Reuter's Asian Editor, Mr Ian Macdonald, who flew with Miss Odchimar to Hong Kong, said before leaving: "Miss Odchimar is accused of having interviewed a survivor of the hotel disaster while he was delirious in hospital, of not seeking to verify his allegations and of giving a false impression of the rescue."

With other journalists, Miss Odchimar interviewed

the survivor with the permission of the hospital authorities.

Mr Macdonald said: "I have heard a tape recording of the third interview. He was perfectly lucid and coherent and Miss Odchimar's report is an accurate account."

● LONDON: According to Singapore's acting High Commissioner in London, Mr Krishnasamy Kesavapany, a police investigation was initiated immediately after the report appeared on the wire service. After careful investigation, the police had concluded that the allegations were unfounded (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Mr Kesavapany said that the survivor interviewed by Miss Odchimar, Mr Boey Mun Wai, had been examined by hospital doctors, who found that he had made his allegations while suffering from "post-disaster syndrome".

Defector blames Seoul

Tokyo (AP) — A South Korean intelligence officer who defected to the North condemned relations between Seoul and Washington and described the South's intelligence operations at a news conference in Pyongyang. North Korea's official news agency said yesterday

The report, monitored in Tokyo, said Mr Chong Dong Ik decided to defect "when he realized with bitterness that the South Korean rulers are not concerned about the future of the nation".

The South's intelligence organization was nothing other than a section of the CIA.

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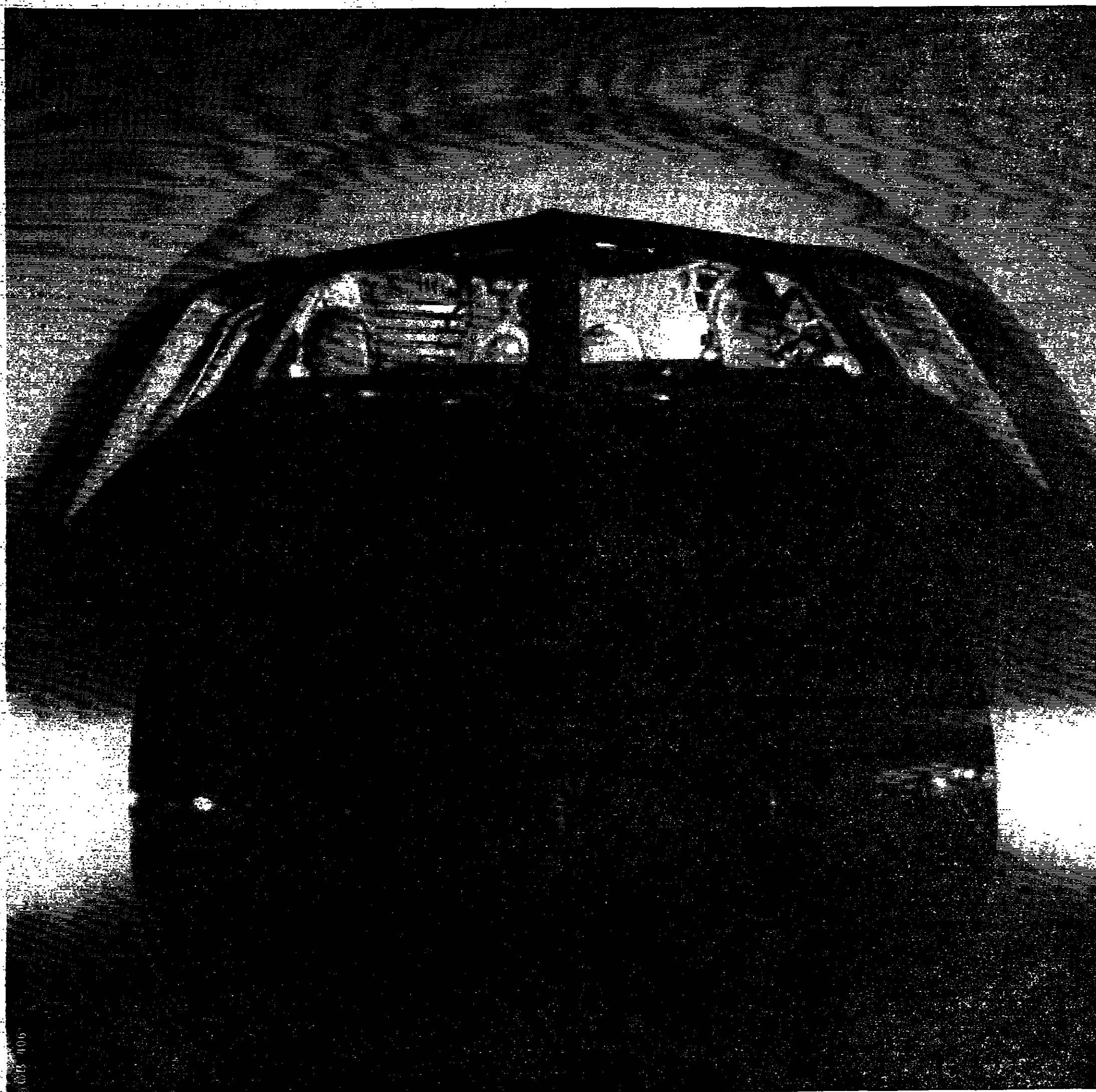
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SPECTRUM

London's new pilot takes command

THE TIMES PROFILE

SIR GODFREY TAYLOR

The case of the businessman who builds up his office from a staff of 16 to one of 4,300 sounds like an episode from a Victorian self-improvement tract. A businessman who does it in a single week might sound far gone in expansionist arrogance. A man who, like Sir Godfrey Taylor, commodore of the cutting-up expedition against the Greater London Council, does so with every intention of running the operation down to 2,000 within a year and complete closure within five years has evidently embraced staff turnover as an end in itself. But that is exactly the business of "Tag" Taylor.

Chairman of London's smallest business with a budget of £600 million and a penthouse office surveying Trafalgar Square, Taylor, aged 60, is the assigned recipient of all the unresolved squabbles and headaches left behind by the abolition of the GLC. Few issues in the life of this Government have engendered such apocalyptic outbursts of parliamentary rage and alarm. All the functions of that embodiment of the cockney democratic spirit, it was claimed, were to be assigned to faceless bureaucrats, natural butts for public resentment over every hiccup in the immensely complicated transfer of power.

The very name of the organization created to pick up the loose ends — the London Residuary Body — has a dismal, funeral air, as if it should be staffed by morticians and executors of wills. The apocalypse is due this weekend, and the chief of the 16 faceless bureaucrats, a trim, former wartime pilot with handlebar eyebrows and a penchant for fast cars, is visibly thriving on the prospect.

"I think our problems are just beginning," he barks breezily. "So far, it has gone much more smoothly than I would ever have thought. But we have been dealing mainly with the big things. They tend to take care of themselves — the resources are there and, bingo, it happens. It is the small things that take time to resolve."

As the man in charge of the yard

where the bulk of the GLC is being broken up, he has the special qualification of having been one of those who helped to design the vessel 11 years ago. And though he is firmly convinced that the GLC is so wasteful and pretentious that it richly deserves abolition, he is not sure that in the end London will not need some form of strategic authority to replace it.

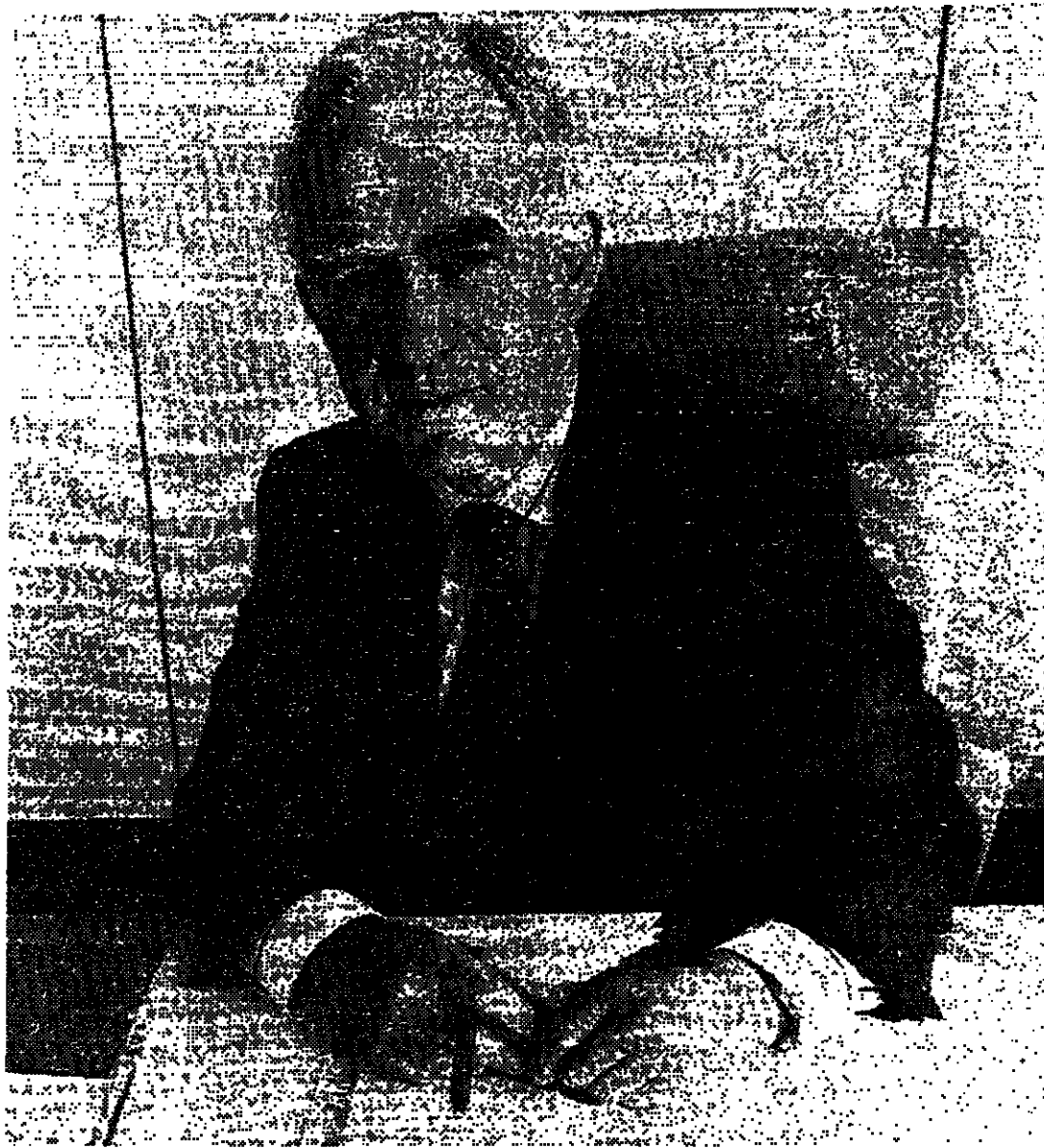
"I happen to believe that there may be a requirement for some strategic powers to be devolved to Greater London. I regard our job here as producing what I call a flat surface. Then in five or 10 years, the politicians will be able to say, 'Do we need a strategic authority or not?' But if there is one, it will have to be strictly confined, because the lack of strict confinement has been the cause of the GLC's self-destruction."

When the beleaguered Patrick Jenkin was casting around for someone to wind up the GLC estate, Tag Taylor (the nickname is a compression of "Taylor, A.G." in local government year-books) was a natural choice. He had years of experience in London local government and proven managerial ability as well, both in business and as chairman of the Southern Water Authority.

"The whole thing had become so political we thought it had to be a politician doing the job, rather than someone like a GLC official", Jenkin says. "Tag is a robust man who understands the politics and does not hesitate to speak his mind: someone with whom moderate Labour politicians, at least, could get on."

According to Tom Caulcott, who was secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities when Taylor led the Tory opposition there, Taylor entered so robustly into the fray when the association was campaigning against Jenkin's unitary grant proposals that some Labour members were half-seriously saying they wished they could make him chairman.

He is decidedly on the wet side of his party, with firm ideas about constitutional propriety, and a



Handlebar eyebrows, an understanding of politics, briskly exercised authority: Sir Godfrey in his office

social conscience. It is said he disapproves of the Government's recent plans to privatize England's water authorities, on the very un-Thatcherite grounds that natural monopolies are better off publicly owned.

Tag Taylor is far from being one of those whose Toryism is hereditary. Son of a Manchester railwayman, he went from school into apprenticeship as a costing clerk in a printing company, but soon left to join the Fleet Air Arm, seeing active service as a pilot in the vast airborne Pacific campaigns in HMS Implacable.

After the war he returned to the printing industry and in 1964 formed his own company, print-

ing computer paperwork. When he was bought out he was left with a golden handshake and time on his hands. Despite his insubordination over unitary grants, the Government offered him the chairmanship of the SWA. He enjoyed himself there: the two main decorations in his rather spare office are pictures of the old Ark Royal and an aerial view of one of his favourite reservoirs.

From his lofty office he is able to look across and salute Nelson on his column every morning, and he also cocks a weather eye to judge the prospects for golf, a game he plays with skill and dedication. He lives in Hove with his wife, Eileen.

Fast cars are another passion. Not long ago he was buying a powerful new three-litre sports car, and the young salesman was a little concerned that it might be unduly sporty for a buyer of his years. The eyebrows bristled and he replied: "When I was your age, young man, I was flying Seafires."

The brisk exercise of authority comes naturally to him and people talking nonsense are at risk of finding the eyebrows unnervingly brought to bear on them, as well as a machine-gun barrage of "No, no, no."

The pilot of post-Livingstonian London is unlikely to be daunted by any of the attacks he can expect in the coming months. The old

BIOGRAPHY

1925: Born Manchester. Educated at Stockport Secondary School. Second World War: Fleet Air Arm.
1945: Married Eileen Dorothy Daniel: one son, three daughters.
1951: Councilor, Sutton and Cheam (leader, London borough of Sutton 1961-72).

1968-71: Chairman, London Boroughs Association.
1978-80: Chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities.
1981: Chairman, Southern Water Authority.
1984-85: High Sheriff of Greater London.
May 1986: Chairman, London Residuary Body.

phrase about where the buck stops is often on his lips, and he points out almost wistfully that in the transfer of London services, the buck will stop with him less often, and more briefly, than popular demography might suppose.

The GLC was never as important a provider of services as its public image implied. Ken Livingstone was not the first leader of the council to pass himself off as virtually the Prime Minister of London. It is the London boroughs which are responsible for 80 per cent of council services in London, and in the boroughs the men of weight — Sir Godfrey was one of them for many years — traditionally resented this exercise in effortless superiority. Now it is a borough man who presides over the dismemberment of the great rival, and the boroughs which inherit most of its responsibilities. These include planning, parks, traffic, fire-fighting, historic buildings and waste disposal. The GLC's remaining housing responsibilities and its controversial powers to make grants to favoured organizations will pass to the boroughs, or be shared between them and Whitehall.

The residuary body has ended up with the GLC's debts, assets, mortgage and pension commitments, those of its 21,500 workforce who have not been assigned to other employers and anything where the boroughs cannot agree on how to share out their windfall. In practice, this last category has boiled down to Hampstead Heath and a few half-forgotten services like giving permission for the passage of lorries carrying abnormal loads.

"We are not just sitting back waiting for the boroughs to fight it all out between themselves. It is not for us to decide a solution, but to recommend. One of my board members is already discussing the future of Hampstead Heath with the three boroughs which cannot agree who should run it. He's getting his feet wet," says Sir

Godfrey, who evidently approves of those who get their feet wet.

He is entitled to crow a little for having played on the Government's anxiety to avoid a troublesome transition, and persuaded ministers to relax restrictions on the use of mortgage repayments, thus reducing the LRB's burden on ratepayers to below a third of initial estimates. Some Westminster Tories are still a little resentful of his success in this line. "They opened their mouth a little wide", one of them put it. He is one of the few remaining Tories who still speak confidently of abolition as a money-saving exercise.

He has briskly steered clear of many of the political minefields of the situation by insisting that his business lies essentially with the officials who run council services, and not with the councillors who make the policies. With a subtle sense of protocol, he has insisted that he should stay in his office while others — including Ken Livingstone himself on occasion — make their way to his door. He has entered County Hall only twice since he was appointed.

County Hall is one of the 10,000 pieces of GLC property which remain to be disposed of, and is likely to go on the market shortly after a feasibility report next month. Perhaps Tag Taylor's avoidance of that great monument of municipal megalomania is an acknowledgement of the sinister psychological effect it can have on its occupants. Its imperial grandeur seems to impel quasi-imperial bureaucrats to unfold almost of their own volition. No move has come from Westminster, says Taylor, to make the building over as an M.C. secretariat — and wisely so. Of this one can be sure: working will ever induce Tag Taylor to let his staff loose in its Parkinsonian corridors and risk falling prey to the same malign influence.

George Hill

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Old Country blues

Country music fans stage their British festival this weekend. How fares the cowboy image?

The big changes currently afoot in country music were indicated by Hank Williams Jr as long ago as 1979, when he sang "country music singers have always been a real close family. But lately some of my kinfolks have disowned a few others and me..."

He was referring to the way in which "new" country music artists, such as himself, have broken with many traditions of the old Nashville version. It is to draw attention to the music of Hank and his kind that a British media campaign called Discover New Country is now in full swing.

Ironically, the biggest event on the British country calendar, the 18th Silk Cut Festival, to be held at Wembley this weekend, is not an occasion that record company strategists are particularly keen to emphasize. If anything, the festival is thought to represent an embarrassing popular image of country music that the Discover New Country campaign would prefer to play down, if not discard.

Discover New Country, with its motto "Leave The Wagon Wheels Behind", is a specific attempt to rid the music of some of its less endearing stereotyped images, and thereby lure back a generation of potential buyers. In a 1984 MORI poll 49 per cent of respondents said they liked country music, a percentage second only to that of people who said they liked pop music (51 per cent) and well ahead of those for classical (46 per cent). But this was not reflected in record sales. Hence the campaign.

"Like the Stars and Stripes itself, the Nashville sound is coloured red, white and blue: red-necked, white-faced and blue-collared — and proud of it". This perception of traditional country music, as described in a recent Channel 4 programme, *Down Home*, with Aly Bain, is the image that many people fear is putting off potential buyers.

It is a description that Rosanne Cash, daughter of Johnny Cash, and one of the key artists in the campaign, recognizes but deplores. "There is an element in the South that is proud of being ignorant. They want to be as non-intellectual as they can get. They don't see that in country music any more. The statement is too general, and about 20 years behind the times."

Sales of traditional country music records have taken a tumble in recent years, and a front page article by Robert Palmer in *The New York Times* last September titled "Country Music in Decline"



New country: Rosanne Cash

rocketed, but once the faded passed, things settled down to roughly their former level.

But everyone agrees that the decline of sales in country music has been inexorably hastened by the radio programming policies on country stations in America. "There's such a short list of songs being played that a lot of people are becoming bored with the song before they ever get around to buying the record," complains Hamilton. "With a song coming up 12 times a day, it's either that or they tape it."

"Country radio is sick", agrees Rosanne Cash. "It is disgusting. They play by artist, the don't play by music. If somebody that they're calling a country artist is making the most awful Las Vegas type rubbish, they'll play it, and somebody like Los Lobos, who I think are making incredible, pure country music, they won't play, because they're a rock group". This, of course, stifles the emergence of new talent, and confirms the ossification of interest in the genre.

Another problem in America may also be the exclusion of

country from the immensely popular Music Television (MTV) cable channel and other pop music video outlets. Steven Greenberg, a research scholar at the Pennsylvania University School of Communication noted that "1975 to 1982 marked country's most successful cross-over period ever, with 1983-85 (when MTV gained its ascendancy) marking one of its worst droughts. The early decision to exclude it from (video) programming was what relegated country music to the fringes of the pop world."

Could it be, then, that the New Country campaign is simply a British marketing ploy by the American record companies?

"Absolutely not", said Cynthia Lea, European manager of the country Music Association. "These acts are hugely successful in the States, and new artists like Rosanne Cash and the Judds really represent what is going to rejuvenate Nashville."

Lea suggests that in Britain, there are two groups of supporters; one is the gang that goes to the Easter festival with the boots and the hats and the spurs. They are the specialist end of the market, and they want to hear Hank Snow, Billie Jo Spears, Charlie Pride, "Crystal Chandeliers" and "Blanket On The Ground".

"We're simply saying to the other people, who find that a little off-putting, that country music is much broader than that. This is an umbrella campaign to introduce newer artists like Sawyer Brown, George Strait, Alabama and Don Williams that do have a broader appeal."

How do the old country stars feel about the bright new breed of marketing men? George Hamilton, in typically generous fashion, said: "I hope the artists that are being promoted do well, they all deserve to. And I applaud the record companies' good intentions. But I'm concerned that they don't throw the baby out with the wash. British country is a fragile flower, but not a plastic one."

He is also quick to challenge the "wagon wheels" theory of old country. "You tell Charlie Pride that country is white-faced, or ask Johnny Cash whether it's red-necked. I'm a Democrat, and I know a lot of performers in country music who don't necessarily think that the Ku-Klux-Klan is the ideal club to join. The old cliché that it's all right-wing, racist, red-necked farmers and hill-billies is way out of line."

David Sinclair

Behind a silk curtain

Moves are afoot to expose and reform the process that turns a barrister into a Queen's Counsel

his officials with the circuit leaders, government law officers, specialist Bars — such as the criminal Bar or family law Bar — and judges, including the heads of the relevant High Court divisions.

Only a few of the aspiring applicants are lucky. Of the record 204 who put their names forward last year, 31 were appointed; this year 248 — a new record — have applied but the proportion, though not fixed, will be much the same.

Merit is said to be the sole criterion and barristers will have usually practised for 10

or more years. But the secrecy of the system has in the past fostered suspicions that politics count.

There have been proposals for reform. It is anomalous, critics believe, that the Lord Chancellor, and his civil servants, a branch of government, should be involved in selecting the senior ranks of the Bar. It does not happen within the solicitors' branch of the profession. The proposal has been made that the job should be removed entirely from the Lord Chancellor and placed with a committee of QCs, headed by a judge, who — it is argued — could do the job just as well.

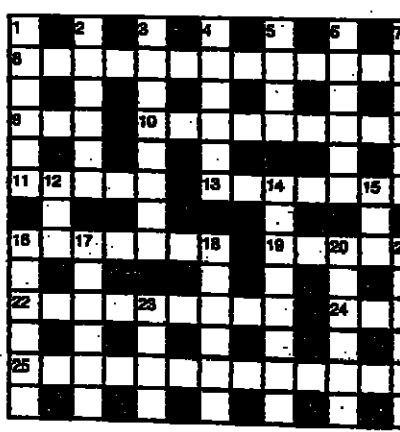
The changes now being made may stop short of that. But any reform which sheds light on that most mysterious of professions must be in the public interest.

Frances Gibb

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 910

ACROSS
8 Recovery period (13)
9 Pilot record (3)
10 Relative in (9)
11 Neck cloth (5)
12 By that means (7)
16 Shoulder board (7)
19 Money pouch (5)
22 Lineage (9)
24 Through (3)
25 Ship stairs (13)

DOWN
1 Libra constellation (6)
2 Puzzle (6)
3 Vigilant (8)
4 Ripe (6)
5 Blackleg (4)
6 Overrun (6)
7 Heterodoxy (6)
12 Oudo (3)
14 Advocate (8)
15 Omnibus (3)



20 Obliterate (6)
17 Equanimity (6)
18 Three-lobed (6)
20 Divulge (6)
21 Pass by (6)
23 Slightly open (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 909

ACROSS: 1 Lament, 4 Lounge, 7 Lane, 8 Nonsense, 9 Ignorant, 13 Tom, 16 Carbon dioxide, 17 Rue, 19 Duetting, 24 Toboggan, 25 Sill, 26 Status, 27 Sallow.
DOWN: 1 Lull, 2 Menagerie, 3 Tenor, 4 Linen, 5 Used, 6 Gumbo, 10 Boat, 20 Urges, 21 Links, 22 Toot, 23 Flaw.

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BOOKS

Writer as a young porcupine

James Fenton reviews this week's new books on Papa

HEMINGWAY
By Jeffrey Meyers
Macmillan, £16.95ALONG WITH YOUTH
Hemingway. The Early Years
By Peter Griffin
Oxford, £12.95

inattentive to her. "Unless [you] come into your manhood," she says, "there's nothing before you but bankruptcy. You're overdrawn." And in the ensuing passage she explains what her idea of Ernest's manhood is:

The account needs some deposits, by this time, good-sized ones in the way of gratitude and appreciation. Interest in Mother's ideas and affairs. Little comforts provided for the home. A desire to favor any of Mother's peculiar prejudices, on no account to outrage her ideal. Flowers, fruit, candy or something to wear, brought home to Mother with a kiss and a sneeze. The unflinching desire to make much of her feeble efforts, to praise her cooking, back up her little schemes. A real interest in hearing her sing or play the piano, or tell the stories that she loves to tell — a surreptitious paying of bills, just to get them off Mother's mind.

The list does not end there. Grace was the original totalitarian mother, and what she was telling Hemingway was, unless he stopped all impure and unworthy behaviour and devoted himself entirely to her — he wasn't to come back again. Not surprisingly, Hemingway went off and married an older woman.

The Griffin version, then, appears to get one much closer to his subject on points of psychological detail, but this is not to say that it is always superior to Meyers. It ends before Hemingway had written any of the stories that made him famous. But I couldn't help noticing that on page 65 Griffin reproduces, and appears to take at face value, a story which is obviously nothing more than that — a good Tall Story.

The Meyers version points out how very difficult it is to establish the facts about Hemingway's life, because of the way the legend took over (and in the end corrupted the life itself). A turning-point appears to come when

Hemingway moves to Key West and away from the company of his intellectual and artistic peers. In an awfully telling sentence, Meyers summarizes the matter thus: "He was a great listener before he moved to Key West and a great talker afterwards. I'm not sure though that I agree with Meyers a few pages later when he says: 'A man is essentially what he hides.' A man is essentially what he does. For instance."

Damon Runyon said of Hemingway: "Few men can stand the strain of relaxing with him over an extended period." He was clearly, to put it mildly, competitive, and he was not a generous critic of his contemporaries' work. Of his friendships, Don Stewart wrote:

The minute he began to love you, or the minute he began to have some sort of obligation to you of love or friendship or something, then is when he had to kill you. Then you were too close to something he was protecting. He was one of those who had the best friendships he ever had. He did it with Scott [Fitzgerald]; he did it with Dos Passos — with everybody. I think it was a psychological fear he had that you might ask something from him. He didn't want to be overdrawn at your bank. That was what his mother said before he broke away: he was overdrawn with her.

It is interesting to compare the way a fact in one biographer's treatment appears elsewhere. Jeffrey Meyers has given us a large, one-volume account of Hemingway's life and works. Peter Griffin offers the first volume of a much more detailed account. In the Meyers volume we are told that Hemingway, when he was about six, "locked a sleeping porcupine in the woodshed of the schoolhouse and then savagely backed it to pieces with an ax." In the Griffin version we are given the source material in full. Here it is:

Dear papa, today Momma and the rest of us took a walk. We walked to the school house. Marceline ran on ahead while we stood at the door. A little while she came back she said that in the wood shed of the school house there was a porcupine, so we went up there and looked in the door. The porcupine was asleep. I went in and gave it a wack with the ax. then I gave it another and another, then I crouched in the wood. We came to Mr. Claus and he got his gun and

At which point the manuscript ends. Either way, of course, the young Hemingway gives a porcupine a very bad time, but it is not clear that he hacks it to pieces. If so, why would Mr. Claus need a gun? From the Meyers version, we imagine a six-year-old quite staggering strength. From the child's letter ("then I crouched in the wood") we see a little boy who has bitten off rather more than he can chew.

Before Hemingway went off to serve as an ambulance driver in the First World War he led his parents to believe that he had got engaged. Grace Hemingway wrote to her son in strikingly awful terms, hurt that he had not told Mother about this girl before, and remarking: "You may come home disgraced and crippled: would this girl love you then?" You can't help feeling that a wish is being expressed here: come home disgraced and crippled, and mother will look after you, and nobody will steal you from her. In fact Hemingway was not engaged. He went to the war, was wounded but not permanently disabled or crippled, but managed to return as an authentic hero. As for mother, it soon appeared that he was sleeping with a local girl, in the open fields. Meyers tells us that Grace was going through the menopause at this time, but we need the Griffin version to understand just how spectacular this menopause must have been.

Grace organized a birthday party for Ernest, at the end of which she presented him with a letter accusing him of being selfish and a wastrel, and

Essays for our zippy historian

John Campbell

WARFARE, DIPLOMACY AND POLITICS
Essays in Honour of A.J.P. Taylor
Edited by Chris Wrigley
Hamish Hamilton, £15

In the world of modern publishing, the *festschrift* is an anomaly. This is a pity, because the idea of "essays in honour" is a pleasant one. The essays may be by the great man's peers or by his pupils, usually, as here, they are a judicious mixture of the two. Either way, it is an appropriate way for fellow-historians to pay a tribute of admiration, indebtedness, and very often friendship. It is a measure of the affection as well as the respect in which Alan Taylor is nowadays held in the profession that once sighted him, that this is the third collection to be presented to him, marking his 60th, 70th, and now 80th birthdays.

Nevertheless, *festschrifts* rarely justify themselves as books. This is partly the problem that afflicts any book of essays by diverse hands; but it is aggravated by the need to represent all the dedicatee's wide interests, which rules out a unifying theme. (The title of this one well expresses its variety). It also reflects the fact that the contributors nowadays are all hard-pressed academics without the leisure to write an essay genuinely in honour of the occasion; they are more likely to proffer an off-cut from work in progress, with a dutiful reference to Mr Taylor worked in at the beginning. It is very proper of Hamish Hamilton to commission another tribute to one of their long-time best-selling authors (though less proper of them to have presented it on the jacket as though it were by Mr Taylor himself). But one wishes they could have found a less tired format that did him more real honour.

It is not the fault of the editor, who has assembled good names. None of the essays is uninteresting. They range from Gladstone and Bright to the Marshall Plan, and from Austen Chamberlain to the Comintern. All are contributions to scholarship. But none, sadly, is enlivened by the narrative energy or the argumentative zest that the name on the cover would lead one to hope for.

Ted Morgan's *Maugham* was a triumph; his *Churchill* was a disaster; how does he fare with F. D. Roosevelt? Not badly, but not brilliantly either.

This is a very full and fat biography, though it is far from being "the definitive interpretation of the President," as claimed by the blurb. Perhaps it is "highly readable," if that term describes a breathless, repetitious American journalist's full of expressions like "ego integrity" and "no-win situation." The book does draw on an impressive amount of original material. But it contains errors of detail — Balfour was not a peer until 1922, MacArthur did not wear his medals when suppressing the Bonus Marchers. And sometimes the overall perspective is distorted. For example, Morgan's account of Second World War strategy is heavily biased against the British. Had it not been for Churchill's tergiversations, he suggests, Roosevelt could have launched a victorious Second Front within nine months of entering the war. Yet he fails to mention General Marshall's embarrassed acknowledgement that he could contribute only two and

The master of the common touch

Piers Brendon

FDR
By Ted Morgan
Grafton, £20

a half American divisions to a continental invasion in 1942, and his subsequent admission that such an attack might have been "suicidal". Morgan's portrait of Roosevelt himself is more balanced, but still not altogether convincing. The polio attack that left him crippled in 1921 is represented as the great psychological caesura in his life. But then he was essentially a playboy. The Roosevelts were so grand that they would not dine with the Vanderbilts, and only by choosing his cousin Eleanor could FDR avoid marrying beneath him. After Groton and Harvard, he rose almost effortlessly in politics, becoming Assistant Secretary of the Navy in Woodrow Wilson's government. Devoted and disloyal to his chief,

he used the position to make friends and influence people. But he had few solid achievements and no progressive ideas to his credit, whatever he afterwards liked to pretend. FDR's affliction made him, it taught him patience and humility, compensating for the strains of vanity and insincerity in his character. It gave him the leisure to study public questions, and taught him to identify with the dispossessed. The New Deal was a form of social therapy.

Doubtless there is something in all this. But, as Morgan himself shows, FDR remained a tricky and egotistical politician all his life. He promoted himself from the Governorship of New York to the Presidency in 1932 by wheeling and dealing like a Tammany ward boss. He ran his administration by dividing and ruling, compromising on matters of principle, employing the Justice Department and the FBI to carry out assorted dirty tricks, and keep-

ing his Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, in a condition of pristine ignorance about American foreign policy. He attempted to cure the Depression by a series of piecemeal initiatives which owed less to compassion than to expediency. He privately expressed a patrician contempt for Jewish, black, and Irish voters; and his internment policy during the war violated the civil rights of Japanese-Americans on a massive scale.

Nevertheless, as Morgan rightly intimates, FDR was a heaven-born leader. He had an instinctive wisdom about government. He was an artist of the possible — which did not stop him suggesting that bats could be used to mount surprise attacks on the Japanese. He combined charisma and the common touch, so much so that people swore that he stood up to greet them. He inspired the nation with his own serene self-confidence when it was close to collapse in 1933. He had a kind of incandescence, and even during the darkest hours of the war its glow never left him. As the actress Lillian Gish said, he seemed "to have been dipped in phosphorus."

Poor cat i' the adage

FICTION

Philip Howard

PRIDE
By William Wharton
Cape, £9.95AUGUST IN JULY
By Carlo Gèbler
Hamish Hamilton, £9.95TENNIS AND THE MASAI
By Nicholas Best
Hutchinson, £8.95ACASTOS
By Iris Murdoch
Chatto & Windus, £8.95

unfolding, in which everyone loses. On the other hand, maybe not. The book is sound on cats; and offers as much curious matter on such topics as the ostrus in lions as a non-fiction could want. If sometimes the symbolism and moralizing about the animal in human nature, and the importance of looking through the bars of life not at them goes over the top, this is an ambitious, adventurous, unusual novel. I liked it a lot.

Carlo Gèbler's second novel is also a cleverly constructed mosaic, with its climax also at an historical event, in this case the eve of the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1981. You can guess the climax as inevitably as that poor old lion getting out of its cage. August Slemic (his Christian name is the reason for the book's tiresome title) is a refugee from Poland who has become a successful London estate agent. He is now 60, and

going through a life crisis, wondering why he is so lonely, life is so boring, and his wife no longer loves him. One could tell him why, if only he would listen. The book darts backwards and forwards in time and place, from the Thirties to the Eighties, and from Warsaw to the Goldhawk Road. It is tricky to write about loneliness and boredom without becoming boring. Carl Gèbler is clever and psychologically perceptive enough to pull off the trick. But his characters, though tossed by the storms of our century, are British miniatures not American epics.

I have put *Tennis and the Masai* on my list of silly titles of the year. It is set in the uplands of Kenya in an English prep school called Hagard Hall houses: Gagool, Umbopo, Quaternain. An English innocent called Martin Riddle comes out to teach geometry and grow up. For the school-teaching profession, up-country Kenya must be the end of the line. There is a cast of grotesque and funny characters, references to Hemingway, Flaggard, and Wang (which may be going too far); jolly tapes and agreeable contradictions, in which the Masai are the civilized and the old colonialists are the savages. But as a theme for a novel, how a spell in Africa will increase your self-confidence and get you through the R.C.B. into a good line regiment is mini.

Acastos is the sturdy young voice of common sense in these two fictional Platonic dialogues, in which Socrates, fanatic young Plato, and their friends debate art and religion. Does morality depend on religion? Can you have religion without mythology? Should governments control religion, and censor art? It is charmingly and cleverly done. And you cannot complain that its themes are not the great ones of life and fiction.

The Fabian woman of parts

When Beatrice and Sydney Webb visited Margaret and Douglas Cole they took a cod-fish. Beatrice explained that when invited to visit aristocratic friends they were expected to bring a salmon. As salmon was too expensive, she had brought a cod instead. The Cokes were the second great husband and wife Fabian partnership, and their marriage and work together received the approval of the first: Beatrice described them as "perfect intellectual companions".

Betty Vernon has produced a readable if uncritical account of Margaret Cole's life. For half a century Mrs Cole was at the centre of a circle of politicians and intellectuals who helped to shape British Democratic Socialism. Her life's work was dedicated to the Fabian Society, although she was also a member of the London County Council, as well as a prolific author ranging from poetry to political tracts.

We learn she grew up in the protected but intellectually rigorous world of a Cambridge academic household. Her father, best known for Postgate's Latin Primer, insisted that his children should not only read and write Latin but also converse in it. At Giron, where she gained a first in Classics, a contemporary described her as so clever she didn't fit in. Her conservatism to socialism came not through her voracious reading there nor conventionally through exposure to working class poverty in the Cambridge

Tessa Blackstone

MARGARET COLE
1893-1980
A Political Biography
By Betty D. Vernon
Croom Helm, £19.95

clubs of the East End. Although she was influenced by the writings of H.G. Wells and Shaw, the catalyst was the imprisonment of her brother Raymond as a conscientious objector. Her conversion complete, she abandoned a safe career in teaching and went to work for the Fabian Research Bureau at the age of 23. Thus began an association with the Fabians that lasted more than 60 years and in the Thirties ensured its survival as an intellectual force in the labour movement. There too she met G.D.H. Cole, and married him soon after.

Self-willed and unconventional, she surprised her contemporaries by her pipe-smoking, and the passion and vehemence with which she argued. Handsome and brilliant, she emerges from this study as sometimes misanthropic and often difficult. Throughout their marriage, Margaret loved and humoured him, at the same time as pursuing her separate and her joint interests.

Together they edited the *Journal of the Guild Socialists*, produced a stream of pamphlets for the Labour Party and the Fabians, and found time to write detective stories.

He pursued his academic writing, and she edited the monthly bulletin of the Labour Research Department. Although her output did not match that of Beatrice, whose biography she wrote and edited, it was considerable, ranging from early pamphlets on the regulation of wages to tracts in the Fifties on comprehensive schools. Unfortunately there is no assessment in this biography of the quality of her work. Much of it was certainly ephemeral, but we are also told little about its impact on policy-making at the time.

Margaret Cole played her part as a politician and policy-maker as Chairman of the Further and Higher Education Sub-Committee of the LCC. Her husband looked down on this work, although, by helping to shape London's post-school education, her influence may have been more significant in this role than in her writing. Why she never tried to become an MP is not addressed. Epitomizing the highly educated and politically committed women of her generation, she had a full-time job for only a few years. She was neither an academic, politician, journalist, nor administrator. Instead, with indefatigable energy, she performed all roles, as well as bringing up three children. She was strong-willed and cantankerous, yet a remarkable woman. Betty Vernon has served us well in putting on record her life and achievements.

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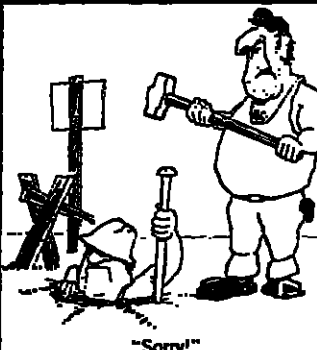
THE TIMES DIARY

Taking a rise

The Sixth Fleet is not alone in humiliating Colonel Gaddafi. So did the two Greenham Common women who were in Libya as his guests last week (Diary yesterday) for a symposium on feminism, racism *et al.* One of the women, Lorna Bluegate, tells me that unlike the 600 other "violent brutes" at the conference, they incurred Gaddafi's displeasure by refusing to stand up and salute him "almost every five minutes". The women, whose flight and "comfy" hotel were financed by Gaddafi, were suddenly phoned in the small hours and told a plane had been booked for them immediately - two days earlier than planned. Says Miss Bluegate, now safely back in England: "We were there to make our mark as pacifists. I don't think it went down too well. It was terrifying..."

Off the wall

This poster, offered for sale by Robert Maxwell's company Pergamon, should go down a plane with the hundreds of employees in Glasgow whom he keeps sacking. "Dear executive," says Maxwell's men, "most of your employees are concerned, responsible adults who want to do their best... if your employees are not



Teamwork takes practice.

giving you their best effort, chances are you're not communicating with them often enough." Maxwell's "humorous" £1.50 posters "treat your employees like the mature adults they are. And when your employees feel needed and appreciated, they'll feel better about themselves, their jobs..." Which jobs he does not say.

● Planning application advertised in the Bolton Evening News: "Mr and Mrs Higham, Beggers Acre, Bolton; change of use and conversion from vacant breeding kennels to a granny flat."

Overdrive

Although she has been moved to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lynda Chalker remains top transport bore. I understand her new staff are not enthused by the latest edict from the former transport minister - to attach "European Road Safety Year" stickers to all correspondence. Unabashed, she has been spotted, illuminated by midnight oil, doing the job herself.

Silent sufferer

Nicholas Ridley should follow the Prime Minister's example and never again let the train take the strain. After opening the Great Yarmouth by-pass he boarded a train back to London and was stuck outside Colchester for an hour after it broke down. Ridley did not have the brass neck of fellow Tory MP Anthony Beaumont-Dark, stranded for even longer on a train at Northampton. He made such a fuss that BR paid for a taxi to take him and three other passengers the 60 miles to London. "The Secretary of State is obviously a rather more shy fowler than I," says old rent-a-quote.



Judge not...

Derek Hatton's reprieve yesterday from Labour's galleys is not the sole reason for the far left to praise the rule of law. According to *Witch Hunt News*, published jointly by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and the Campaign Group, hard-left activists have been running to the courts at the drop of a Hatton. Recent injunctions have prevented two expulsions from Ipswich constituency party, three from Exeter, 10 from Stevenage and the reinstatement of three party members in Cardiff South. Can it really be only three weeks since Derek Hatton, losing his appeal against surcharge, was denouncing those same courts as undemocratic conspiracies against the working classes (prop. D. Hatton)?

PHS

"You know what you can do best, and you know what it is best that you do." Thus, according to Britain's *Economic Renaissance*, did the Prime Minister greet its author in 1981 when he moved in as her personal economic adviser. As any viewer of *Yes, Prime Minister* can readily imagine, there were the usual efforts to tuck Professor Alan Walters away at a safe distance from Mrs Thatcher's ear. Back in 1979, Adam Ridley had lasted barely 24 hours in Downing Street before being sucked into the Treasury. But Walters dug in, remaining at No 10 for two years before returning, newly knighted, to the US, drawn back by family ties.

This book began with a lecture Professor Walters gave in America. There, the title ended with a question mark. That has been dropped: an act, he says, of deliberate provocation akin to the US Sixth Fleet's entry into the Gulf of Sirte. His faith in "Britain's Economic Renaissance" under Mrs Thatcher is now unqualified. But his account is, he insists, "neither a diary nor a denunciation... just a plain old piece of applied economics".

He says disappointingly little about the evolution of government policy on state industries. Walters was a firm believer in the principle that "public provision doubles the cost" and was the scourge of optimistic public investment plans. Perhaps his reticence reflects the fact that he left before the "sale of the century" of state assets really began. Dropping in for a monthly chat with the Prime Minister, as he continued to do, is not the same as day-to-day guerrilla warfare.

But the central arena for Mrs

Sarah Hogg reviews Alan Walters' memoirs of his economic stint at No 10

The one man Thatcher always heeded

Thatcher's right-hand economist was monetary policy, and the three budgets that led up to her re-election. Here his account is much more telling. First, it sheds light on the route by which the government climbed down from the interest and exchange-rate heights to which its monetary policy had led it in 1980. It required a monetarist of Walters' convictions to meet the government's need to shift attention from broad money (which was roaring away above target, then as now) to narrow money (which instead helpfully suggested that monetary policy was too tight). This allowed interest rates to be brought down by early 1981, a comforting background to a tough budget.

Although Walters remains critical of the detail of that budget, its overall shape was the embodiment of his conviction that extra spending or tax cuts were not the way to end the slump. Sir Geoffrey Howe actually cut the deficit projected for the public sector in 1981. Some 364 economists wrote to *The*

Times that "present policies will deepen the depression, erode the industrial base of our economy and threaten its social and political stability". Hardly had this appeared when output began to rise, hesitantly but persistently. However much the signatories now argue that the government did engage in covert deflation - by, for example, easing hire purchase controls - there can be little doubt that the events of 1981 worked to the advantage of the Walters' side of the argument. In this book he expounds it further, though not always clearly. At times he appears to suggest that a budget boost can raise output, provided the deficit is small to begin with. At others, that budgetary expansion is always fruitless and often perverse.

The difference, in his view, seems to be simply one of timing: either the effects of deflation may gradually peter out or there may be an immediate backlash from the financial markets. Walters is right to stress the importance of

"confidence". As he says elsewhere, in a battle between government and the City, the City is bound to win.

In 1982 and 1983, the budgets were less eventful. But the monetary tensions remained. Only in 1982-83 did the government manage to hit its multiplying collection of monetary targets. Sir Geoffrey departed for the Foreign Office with a framed graph of this unrepentant success. At irregular intervals, Mrs Thatcher's half-promises to join the European Monetary System "when the time is ripe" forced its way into the monetary debate. Walters' role was critical in stiffening the Prime Minister's reluctance to join. From other sources comes the tale of one occasion when the Foreign Secretary, Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England of the day formed up with the half-hearted intention of suggesting that the issue should be reopened. Mrs Thatcher's reply of the Walters critique apparently left them speechless.

To judge from this book, Walters remains as hostile to the EMS as ever. But his manuscript was finished in early 1984, and the arguments suffer a little from the delay in publication. It is, for example, hard to argue that exchange rate changes in the EMS have been "frequent and sometimes quite sudden" when there has been no overall realignment of currencies within the system since March 1983. But the abiding impression left by the book is that it is a pity the Prime Minister was deprived of Walters' convictions; and that Walters thinks it is a bit of a pity, too. Britain's *Economic Renaissance* is published today by OUP (£19.50).

David Butler examines the portents for the next general election

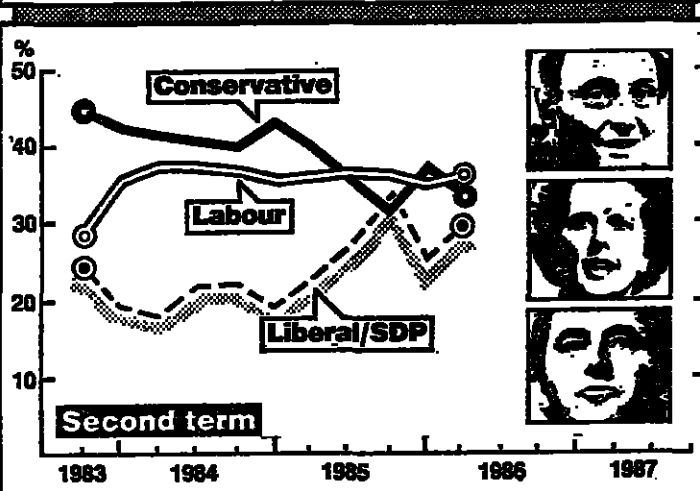
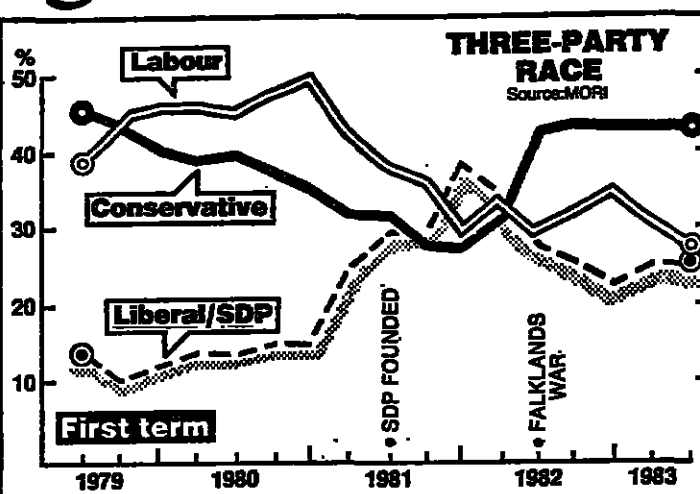
Waiting for a saving factor

This parliament is 33 months old. We are just as far from a previous general election as we were four years ago, when the Falklands invasion transformed the political scene and launched Margaret Thatcher towards her 1983 triumph. Today a dissolution is 14, 19 or, at most, 26 months away, and the electoral future is notably uncertain: each party has a considerable ease for optimism.

The Conservatives remain buoyant despite the current trough, which has come late in their term: until last summer they were almost always ahead in the polls. Although recently they have fared appallingly in local government by-elections, they have never gone much below 30 per cent in the national polls and have seldom been more than 8 per cent behind the leading party. The latest *Newsnight* poll puts them ahead in the coming by-elections in Derbyshire West and Ryedale. In 1981 they were in far more trouble and except, for the unemployment statistics, the economic omens were much worse. Today Norman Tebbit has taken a firm hand on Conservative Central Office and, we are assured, Mrs Thatcher and her rejuvenated Cabinet are far from running out of steam; they see nothing improbable about recovering sufficiently for a third election victory.

Yet the Alliance, too, have plenty to reassure them. Since last summer they have often first in the polls. They have won more votes than any other party in the nine parliamentary by-elections they have fought. In local by-elections, too, they have won a lot of seats and, in recent months, more votes than Labour or Conservative. They have settled almost all their internal problems - over seats, policy and leadership. For the first time they have as little cause as their rivals to worry about that depressing challenge: "A vote for you is a wasted vote."

But the Labour Party have most cause for rejoicing. The *Newsnight* poll suggests predictions they will win in Fulham on April 10, while the national polls put them further in the lead than at any time in this parliament.



After a bad spell, local by-election results are beginning to look encouraging. Moreover the party has survived its reselection hazards without serious damage; it has consolidated its financial base through the unexpectedly successful political fund ballots; and Neil Kinnock is secure enough with MPs and unions. He is guaranteed parliamentary, national executive committee and conference support - not only for his firm handling of the Militant issue but also on the much more important issues of policy - as he seeks to construct a programme that will show Labour as a plausible party of government.

It is not often that all parties are, simultaneously, as sanguine as

they seem to be today. However, each still has cause for anxiety. The Conservatives can reflect that every poll this year has put them in second or third place. In Fulham they seem destined for humiliation. They have fared disastrously in most local by-elections. And they have botched a number of national issues, from Westland and British Leyland to rates reform and GCHQ. Although few want to change their leader many worry whether her authority within the government and her appeal to the country are going to recover fully. When the next election comes, the unemployment figures will still look appalling. And even if Nigel Lawson has made space for tax

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cuts next year there are indications that an increasing number of voters put the maintenance of government services above the reduction of taxes. Above all, the Labour enemy is beginning to look rather more formidable. To judge by the rhythm of past parliaments, it may be getting rather late in the day for the recovery to begin.

The Alliance's cheerfulness may be damped by a third place in Fulham. Moreover, nationally there is an essential insecurity. They have few long term, let alone hereditary, supporters: they have to win and retain support from people disillusioned with the Conservatives or Labour. What if each of these gets its act together? The Alliance, because its support is so evenly spread, needs a higher percentage of votes to get a respectable number of seats. In recent opinion polls it has begun to look as if the older parties have got an irreducible core of about 30 per cent of the vote; the Alliance cannot get a clear majority in parliament on less than 42 per cent. They also face the spectre of a Labour recovery, which could be more certain to drive its more timid supporters back to the Conservatives than a strong Labour showing as polling day nears? If Kinnock goes on slapping down the left may not Alliance recruits from Labour re-act?

For Labour, its lead in the polls is neither long established nor large. It still has to bring the Militant saga to an authoritative end and to cope with district-audited councillors; it has to maintain a delicate balance in meeting the unions' demands without seeming to be their prisoner; above all it has to establish its credibility as an alternative government, capable of managing the economy, not to mention defence and law and order.

Over the coming months, psephological uncertainty will persist. Mrs Thatcher needs a new Falklands factor, and economic recovery by itself will have to be spectacular to offset the simplest, most compelling election cry - "Time for a change" sounded prematurely in 1983, but could have a strong appeal by 1987.

The author is a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

Mary Dejevsky reports on the debate over the thrust of BBC Russian broadcasts

London calling —but why?

1917 revolution and never abandoned the hope of seeing communism overthrown in their lifetime. This generation was followed by people who had lived in Stalin's Russia and experienced the horrors of the Second World War. Although they hated the Soviet regime just as fervently as their predecessors, they tended to put the preservation of peace above all else. The flowering of détente in the 1960s accorded well with their ideals; its fading was to many a sign of failure.

Most of the third and current generation of broadcasters in Russian left the Soviet Union within the past 20 years. Many are Jews who were allowed to emigrate to Israel in the 1960s and early 1970s and came on to Britain. They left the Soviet Union detesting a system which, they believed, had discriminated against them and denied them opportunities. Some subsequently became disillusioned with the western way of life and contemptuous of what they regarded as the naivete of the West about the true nature of the Soviet system.

These attitudes coexist within the Russian Service today and contribute to the creative tension which fosters lively broadcasting. But problems begin if one tendency becomes dominant, and

this is always a risk when staff have to be recruited from the restricted circle of those who have been allowed to emigrate. Preserving editorial control and political balance is not easy.

Coverage of domestic Soviet affairs, the Middle East and human rights violations in such countries as Chile and South Africa are just a few of the subjects which can present difficulties for a service staffed predominantly by recent émigrés.

For the time being, the competition for jobs at Bush House is sufficient to make editorial competence and broadcasting ability the sole criteria for appointment. But as the number permitted to leave the Soviet Union diminishes, so the choice will be restricted. Within all language services broadcasting to the Eastern bloc there is a problem of morale. In a service of fewer than 50 people there are not many senior posts open to those hoping for promotion, and it is often difficult for people who were highly qualified in their own country - as doctors, teachers or writers - to come to terms with the fact that their only recognized qualification now is the ability to broadcast to the country they have left. Their prospects outside the world of

broadcasting or translating are often limited and they cannot, unlike many other foreigners living and working in Britain, return to their home country once their contract expires.

But above all these questions hangs one central issue which applies throughout the BBC language services: how far should they represent a view from London (some might say a British view) and how far should they provide an alternative to the target country's domestic radio stations? This issue has been resolved in the past by each language service individually and in different ways - an arrangement which leads occasionally to politically divergent coverage of events in different languages, each broadcasting in the name of the one BBC.

Questions such as these concern the BBC broadcasters and editors. But they also concern the Foreign Office, which supplies the money (all too little of it) to run the External Services. An understandable preoccupation with value for money encourages questions about audience figures which, in the case of Eastern Europe, cannot be answered. It provokes questions about the effectiveness of broadcasting in Russian when most Soviet cities lack BBC and other short-wave frequencies. And it prompts questions about the prime purpose of external broadcasting: is it to project Britain abroad; to generate long-term political change in the target country; or to provide truthful information to people who would otherwise go without? Forty years after the BBC began its broadcasts in Russian, these questions are still open.

The author was on the staff of BBC External Services, 1982-86.

Ronald Butt

Why Sir Keith should go now

The Easter conferences of the teachers' unions are unlikely to produce much of comfort for our schools. Despite the current ACAS negotiations on pay, some schools still suffer from disruption, and although the talks promise a general truce until the end of the summer term, there could be more trouble in the autumn. Meanwhile, extremists cause parents needless anxiety by trying to sabotage the new GCSE examination (by non-attendance at training courses) as a weapon in their pay dispute.

Nor are the unions likely to think constructively about the deplorable state of education for so many children, or to address themselves open-mindedly to educational reform. They will simply blame away on the theme that the schools are run down through government cuts. In reply, the government will say that in money terms its spending on education has doubled since 1978/79, and in real terms has held virtually level, despite the sharp contraction of the school population. As a result, the amount spent per pupil has risen significantly.

But this is no comfort for parents of children in bad schools. What they see with their own eyes is dilapidation and leaky premises; what they know from their own experience about lack of books and equipment simply makes them angry when the government defends itself with figures against the charges of cuts.

The problem is partly caused by the rise of some costs (including books) faster than the rise in average prices, and partly because local authorities have to finance a contracting system in which some schools are (say) only two-thirds occupied but have to be operated as though they were full. Far too often, however, the major causes are bureaucratic inflexibility and the politicized attitudes of some local authorities towards the deployment of funds. The system promotes the fixed ideas of the educational establishment above the wishes of parents or public. Even this government was on the brink of agreeing to the closure of high-achieving grammar schools at Sherborne, Stroud and Gloucester at the behest of the local authorities but against the wishes of local parents. Happily, however, Sir Keith Joseph has just reprieved them.

It is increasingly clear that parents want their children to have the opportunities provided by the old grammar school ethos and it is significant that in London 17 of the top 20 places (measured by examination results, but weighted to offset differences of family background) were taken by church voluntary aided schools. (Astonishingly, the Roman Catholic Cardinal Vaughan school in Holland Park, which heads the list, is now again threatened with the loss of its separate identity by its own diocesan trustees, apparently eager to reconstruct their schools in obedience to current tertiary fashion.)

No doubt the ethos of their

church background has much to do with the outstanding performance of such schools. But even more influential are their voluntary aided status (free from interference by local authorities) and their preservation of old grammar school standards.

Somewhat schools must be freed from the local authorities which too often choose head teachers for their politicized attitudes to education, rather than for their teaching and managing ability, and use funds ineffectively. Simply handing more money to the present system will not do. Meanwhile, the principle of the educational voucher, or credit, which Sir Keith was talked out of by his department, is being revived on the initiative of Mrs Thatcher. It is right to reconsider it, though Christopher Patten, the Education Minister of State, took a distinctly dampening view when he spoke in a recent Commons debate.

Such a system would raise standards by placing all schools, maintained and independent, in competition with one another, with some parents topping up the voucher at independent schools and others choosing the best state schools. But the unanswered question remains: what happens to the children in the bad schools as the numbers decline and before the schools finally disappear?

An alternative is to build up the voluntary aided schools, by fostering the establishment of new foundations under appointed trustees, by requiring the gradual transfer of existing maintained schools to this system, or by both means. Such schools could be on both grammar and technical school lines. Though all fees would be paid by the state on the present voluntary aided principle, the money would come from central government, not from local authorities.

What matters is to get the local education barons and their nominees out of the schools, which should control their own budgets and preferably fix their own teachers' pay. Meanwhile, whatever may be the answer to the long-term problem, the government should think quickly how to arrest immediate and damaging decline.

Mrs Thatcher has no time to lose. Sir Keith Joseph will leave Parliament at the next election and (it is generally believed) his department this autumn. Why wait until then? He has done valuable work in establishing better criteria for the curriculum and educational standards, and in saving some schools. He has improved the GCSE examination. But he has been worsted in the past by his departmental officials over vouchers and school structure. He has no time in which to embark again on an attempt at major reform, and probably not the resilience. If he is going, it would be sensible for it to be quickly to give time for his successor to start on the fundamental reform of education which is now imperative.

moreover... Miles Kington

Klezmermania part two

Recently I mentioned my first encounter with an attractive Jewish folk music called klezmer, about which I knew nothing save that it was attractive. Do you know what happens when a writer confesses ignorance? I will tell you. Knowledgeable readers promptly complete your education. (Most of my education has been acquired this way.) I now feel in a position to pass on what I have learnt about klezmer music, so fasten your seat belts.

Pride of place must go to the recently formed Jewish Music Distribution, operating from PO Box 232, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2NN, whose Geraldine Auerbach sent me a cassette of Giora Feidman. (How could I have got so far through life without knowing about Giora Feidman?) Originally from Argentina, Feidman was principal clarinet with the Israeli Philharmonic but is now concentrating on playing klezmer music, and the two techniques could not be more different. Classical clarinet is limpid and pure; when he plays klezmer, he bends and cracks notes, scurries between major and minor, alternates between singing and laughing on his instrument producing a haunting, quite un-European virtuoso sound which captivates a Gentile like me.

Mark you, they offer a much wider range of music than that, from Shostakovich to Kurt Weill, from cantors to choirs, and Mrs Auerbach is also the director of a Jewish music festival taking place in England in June and July, but write to her about that, in other words not to me. I am still trying to get to the bottom of klezmer music. Hyman Schwartz of Harrow writes to tell me that King Sennacherib of Assyria, in about 700 BC, demanded Jewish musicians as part of his tribute from the Jewish King Hezekiah, and goes on to say that klezmer musicians were still in demand at non-Jewish festivities much more recently, not just because they were so good but also because they would not touch non-kosher food or wine, and thus were likely to remain more sober than other musicians.

The tradition seems nearly to have died out in the Second World War, when sheer survival was more important, and the efforts of Giora Feidman, the Klezmer, and Andy Stammen's Klezmer Orchestra represent a conscious revival. Most of my younger Jewish friends still don't know about the music, but Abraham Munstein of Teddington tells me that "I well remember a half century ago at our home in Hackney my dear late mother having a number of these records on 78, with labels in Yiddish. I would often play them on our old wind-up gramophone but what happened to them subsequently I have, alas, no idea. So when I read your piece I rushed out and bought a couple of records (but the prices, already)!"

A literary note is added by Barbara Cohen of NW3. "I wonder if George Eliot was the first researcher into klezmer music. The Jewish musician who features in *Daniel Deronda* is called Klezmer, an appropriate name considering that klezmer is derived from the Hebrew *kli zemer* - musical instruments."

But the most unexplicated letter came from Mrs Iris Lawford of 22 Boulevard Gardens, Kenton, HA3 0RQ, who runs a magazine called *The Baton*. This is the organ of the Philatelic Music Circle, a bunch of cheery monomaniacs who collect stamps only with a musical motif - anything from a Belgian commemorative of César Franck to the Barbados Police Band on parade. Well, Mrs Lawford remembered that in 1982 an Israeli named Gabor Vig submitted an article on a German postmark of klezmer (*sic*) musicians from Salzgitter. Far too long to publish, she says, but if I am interested, I might care to read this photocopy...

Fascinating it is too; Vig delves not only into Jewish history but also into the totally non-Jewish history of Lower Saxony and how Salzgitter went over in 1813 from a salt-based economy to exporting musicians. Too deep to go into here. If you want a copy from me, I will send it. Otherwise, I think we had better call the subject closed. If you do nothing else, buy some Giora Feidman.



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KINNOCK LOSES CONTROL

The Labour Party's inability yesterday to begin expulsion proceedings against the 12 Liverpool party members who are accused of belonging to the Militant tendency would have been farcical under any circumstances. But the circumstances also made it seriously damaging.

Yesterday was intended to be a show trial expulsion of 12 representatives of the 8,000 Militants who have successfully infiltrated the Labour Party. That might not have solved the problem of the remaining 7,988 Militants still hidden in the woodwork - still less the problem of the far left who are nothing to do with Militant.

But it would have demonstrated to the voters that Labour's leaders were keen to eliminate extremism and had at least some prospect of doing so. If all had gone well, Mr Kinnock would have displayed the smack of firm leadership by the end of the day. And all would have been set fair for Fulham.

This hopeful vision was initially disturbed by Tuesday's judgment in the High Court that it would be contrary to natural justice to expel Labour party members on confidential evidence given

to the National Executive's enquiry - and also to allow the eight enquiry members to take part in the larger expulsion proceedings planned for yesterday.

In this interpretation, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson was undoubtedly correct. And since the law requires him to answer that question and not to solve the Labour Party's problems, no criticism of his judgment will stand.

But there is no disguising the fact that it aggravated those problems very considerably. If people are to give evidence against Militant, they will not unreasonably insist upon being protected against threats, abuse, intimidation and the other reprisals they have learned to fear. That was the justification for the confidential nature of the National Executive's inquiry.

Thus, when the NEC convened yesterday to pursue the expulsions, it had its work cut out. Nonetheless, by substantial majorities, it defeated several attempts by the Left to abandon or delay the proceedings.

What halted the proceedings was the Left's insight that since the High Court ruling had prohibited eight NEC members from taking part, it would require only a few more people

to walk out and the meeting would be deprived of a quorum. Seven left-wingers duly walked out and the meeting broke up in disarray, prompting invidious comparisons with the management of wheel-stalls.

Mr Kinnock, temporarily outmanoeuvred, has promised a change of the rules at a special meeting of the NEC on April 12th to allow the expulsion proceedings to go ahead. Even if he should obtain this rule-change, however, the actual proceedings will still be hobbled by the requirement that evidence against the 12 Liverpool members should be open. Will those who gave evidence in private be prepared to let their Militant enemies know it? If not, will the other evidence be sufficient to expel them?

And should this obstacle be somehow surmounted, the end result will still be nothing more than 12 symbolic martyrdoms. Several thousand Militant sympathisers - who are to be found at all levels of the party right up to the NEC - will remain in place. The public, moreover, will know it.

Labour, in short, still looks very unlike a party of government. And there seems little that Mr Kinnock can do about it.

REVERSING DOWN WHITEHALL

In a fortnight the official head of the Efficiency Unit leaves the Civil Service. In one of his last reports he showed how many of the money-saving recommendations proposed by Mrs Thatcher's waste-watcher, Lord Rayner, had not been put into effect. Efficiency, MINIS, the Financial Management Initiative in today's Whitehall they are regarded as yesterday's tunes.

For some time, perhaps since the 1983 election, the Government's commitment to reform of Whitehall has wavered. The Ponting episode was, in many ways, a distraction. The resignation of Mr Michael Heseltine, in his guise of super-manager, was a real loss. In his two departments, environment and defence, his enthusiasm for a new way of working had been infectious.

MINIS, the Management Information System for Ministers, stood for a principled reorganization of a department's work. It was never widely popular. Any enthusiasm that remained for MINIS was killed by the Westland affair. Westland glorified not the civil servant as manager but the official as flier; power to the civil servant abster to save a minister from embarrassment. Reform is now in reverse.

For all Mr Heseltine's revelations about the innards of Cabinet government, no serious discussion followed about the committee structure and the burdens of ministers. Now, with the next election in sight, who has time for the machinery of government? The minister for the civil service has become, an invisible man. Mrs Thatcher, at one and the same time the only

source of reformist inspiration and the biggest single barrier to change, has other concerns.

But the need for reform will not disappear. Privatization and the reduction of civil service numbers are welcome but do not address the issues. These have to do with the conduct of business in a Parliament where hours and styles still fit nineteenth century rhythms. Redesigning the task of the civil servant cannot be isolated from the incoherence of the minister's job, its mixture of parliamentary, constituency, political, managerial, and departmental activities producing, after six years in office, so many burnt-out cases.

Here is as good an explanation for the timorous spirit of ministers in 1986 as personal pusillanimity. The strong critique advanced by Sir John Hoskyns of the absence within government of political back-up, sources of fresh and committed thought, still stands unanswered.

The canvas is large. On it figures if not a freedom of information statute then a drastic revision of the rules about the flow of information within/out of departments. With a better flow of facts and ideas goes the movement of personnel. In an ideal world, the departure of the head of the Efficiency Unit, would be matched by the importation of a private sector (or local government) figure.

There has been some progress. But it is not enough to appoint a purchasing manager from the private sector; why not a corporate policy analyst as under-secretary. The only barrier to such

movement is the conservative principle of safeguarding positions and prospects.

As the series of articles published in *The Times* this week has shown, there is growing recognition, not least within the civil service itself, that the old boundaries between the political and the administrative have shifted. A redrawing of boundaries between politics and administration could be policed without revolutionary changes. In the United States at a certain level civil service rules cease and appointees have tenure only for the life of an administration. A version of the French cabinet system has been suggested. It might take the form here of an enhanced private office.

The convention that ministers are responsible for all that departments do in their name is exhausted. Civil servants - properly rewarded for the responsibility - must be given greater discretion to manage the business of government and take a higher profile.

Here is an agenda waiting for action. It is not up to Sir Robert Armstrong (though enthusiasm for reform might be a useful qualification for his successor in office). Whitehall reform is a task for politicians, and especially the Prime Minister. Institutional reform is not a substitute for economic and social policies to regenerate Britain. It is complementary. It matters not for the sake of arcane administrative flow charts, but for the sake of programmes and policies. If the machine does not function, or works slowly and grudgingly in the old ways, the most radical political ambition may come to nothing.

LORD CHANCELLOR IN THE DOCK

It is wholly unprecedented for the Bar Council to sue the Lord Chancellor and head of the Judiciary. It is something more than unprecedented - astonishing might be a better word, or perhaps even alarming - to have a Lord Chancellor who has to be so roundly rebuked by the Lord Chief Justice as Lord Hailsham has been by Lord Lane over barristers' pay.

Yesterday the Bar achieved a total victory in its case against the Lord Chancellor when he agreed to enter into negotiations, which can continue until July, on the barristers' claim for increased pay for government legal work in criminal cases. Lord Hailsham has been to the Cabinet and has obtained his colleagues' agreement to the negotiations, which clearly implies that the government is now prepared to find more money than the 5 per cent beyond which Lord Hailsham had refused to budge.

Lord Lane awarded the Bar its costs and expressed his hope that there would now be a "happy conclusion to a very unpleasant matter." So there may be so far as the pay claim itself is concerned. But there is no doubt that Lord Hailsham's handling of the affair has done his reputation for ministerial

competence harm that will not easily be mended.

Junior barristers dependent on government remuneration for working in criminal legal aid cases have cause to be disgruntled. On the other hand their claim for a rise of between 30 and 40 per cent to put them on a par with directly employed government barristers is too high (some have other income) and Lord Hailsham could reasonably resist it. But precise figures have not been the source of his humiliation; the dispute has really been about his refusal to negotiate at all, and about his extraordinary handling of his statutory duty to have regard to the principle of fair remuneration.

In his affidavit to the High Court, Lord Hailsham described the considerations which moved him both before the independent survey of barristers' pay by Coopers and Lybrand, and his reasons after it for seeking to end the matter by introducing regulations for a routine rise of pay while saying that he was prepared to continue talks on the Coopers and Lybrand Report. "I then left London for the Christmas break and only returned briefly to leave for India on January 4." On his return, he consulted ministerial colleagues and adhered to his intentions. "These events ac-

counted for the time which elapsed between my return from India and the communication of my decision."

Lord Lane's response to this was to express his difficulty in understanding "why all of a sudden on December 20 all negotiations ceased. Surely they should have gone on. The fact that the Lord Chancellor goes to India and has a holiday seems to me to be irrelevant." Lord Hailsham's statement that discussions had not actually been stopped simply moved Lord Lane to wonder why this could not have been clearly stated in his letter of February 7 which instead was full of "extraordinary clichés which almost seem to have been designed to be ambiguous."

Lord Hailsham's retreat has saved the court from the need to rule against him, which Lord Lane said he did not want to do. There is now much to be said for the barristers' wish for an advisory committee to which future claims could be referred. Yet the heart of the matter has not been the figures, but Lord Hailsham's insensitive handling of the affair. If it were still the habit of ministers to consider their position on such occasions, Lord Hailsham might be tempted to consider his.

Time for action over Sizewell

From Professor Ian Fells
Sir, The day of reckoning for the Government over the nuclear industry and its future is fast approaching. The Sizewell inquiry report will emerge some time during the summer and it has already been preceded by a select committee report highly critical of reprocessing and storage of nuclear waste at Sellafield.

There are probably no votes in nuclear power as successive governments have discovered, and in the run up to an election that anaesthetises action. But something will have to be decided, and soon, or there will not be a nuclear construction industry to build whatever is decided upon. The last power station order was in 1979.

Of course if we leave the market to operate, as Mr Lawson would have us do, then we should just import low-cost coal and oil, swallow our pride and buy cheap nuclear electricity from the French. Then we can avoid the embarrassment of ordering American nuclear technology as the CEBG would have us do.

As for reprocessing, to divert criticism, spent fuel could be left untreated, mouldering in dry stores, a dreadful legacy to posterity and a good deal more difficult to deal with than the pit heaps left by the coal owners 60 years ago for us to clean up.

Inaction on nuclear matters cannot be absolved by an enthusiasm for "monergy" (Mr Walker's contribution to the English language) and energy policy cannot be left to lawyers and planning inquiries. How much longer can our elected members feebly vacillate, having developed no coherent policy in seven years whilst our European competitors forge ahead with clear and successful energy programmes?

Do we have to wait until the North Sea runs dry and the lights go out?

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
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Ordination of women

From the Bishop of London
Sir, In your leading article on March 22 you repeat the statement made by your Religious Affairs Correspondent on March 17 that I have said I would not be present at the Lambeth Conference if a woman bishop were consecrated in the Anglican Communion.

I have made no such statement for the simple reason that I have made no decision. All I have said is that in such an event I would, in consultation with other bishops who share my views, have to consider whether we could better witness to the Anglican tradition by our presence or absence.

Meanwhile, I would draw attention to the position of the Church of England in one respect. Article XXXIV of the 39 Articles specifically limits the authority of "every particular or national Church" to "ordain, change, and abolish, ceremonies or rites" to those "ordained only by man's authority".

The ordinal annexed to the Book of Common Prayer repeatedly reaffirms that the ministry is of divine institution - e.g., in the collect, which states that God in his divine providence has appointed divers orders of ministers in the Church. Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LONDON,
London House,
8 Barton Street,
Westminster, SW1,
March 24.

Student benefits

From Mr Iain Catto
Sir, I feel I should reply to Norman Fowler's letter on social security benefits for students (March 17). The Secretary of State gives some idea of what the changes in student entitlement will be; however, he does not explain what the consequences will be for individual students if these changes go through.

For example, an undergraduate student paying £20 per week rent in a university-controlled flat who goes home during the summer at present is entitled to £567 housing benefit throughout the year. Next year his entitlement will be zero. A student paying £25 per week will lose £803.

An undergraduate student paying £25 per week in private sector accommodation is at present entitled to £803 housing benefit - next year if he goes home during the summer he will receive only £293. Added to this must be losses caused by the removal of entitlement to supplementary and unemployment benefit.

These massive losses are to be compensated by a paltry £36 rise - and even that will be means tested, so that most students will not receive the full amount. According to government figures 275,000 students will be affected.

Next year many students will be unable to return to university because of these cuts, and those that do return face the prospect of living in abject poverty while trying to study for their degree. Yours faithfully,
IAIN CATTO,

Accommodation convenor, Students Representative Council, Edinburgh University Students' Association,
Student Centre House,
Bristol Square,
Edinburgh.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ill-founded fears on new exam

From the Headmaster of Devizes School

Sir, As an ex-President of the Secondary Heads Association and a present member of the Secondary Examinations Council, I feel I must take issue with my old friend, Rowland Brown, to whose alarmist views on the introduction of the new GCSE examination you give prominence (March 20).

It is true that the timetable is tight, that resources are limited and that teachers' industrial action has in some areas had a serious effect on attendance at the first stages of the training programme. Nevertheless it would be short-sighted in the extreme if these difficulties were to be used as excuses for delaying a reform whose desirability has been pressed by all sections of the educational establishment for well over ten years.

The great majority of syllabuses will have been approved by the SEC before the target date of the end of April; meanwhile the published subject criteria give sufficient indication of the changes involved to enable schools to give guidance to parents and pupils making option choices.

Teachers will indeed be called upon to make radical, and highly desirable, changes in their methods of teaching and assessment but subject content is not going to be changed out of all recognition. Nor are teachers familiar with CSE or the many varieties of Joint 164 examinations going to find the assessment of course work or even the problems of differentiation completely novel.

The courses will extend over two years; as always, most teachers will learn "on the job" whether or not they have participated in the preliminary training and it will be the responsibility of local authorities and examining groups to see that appropriate in-service training is provided. It is sometimes forgotten that CSE was launched in 1963 without any preliminary training or extra resources at all.

As Mr Brown acknowledges, the Secretary of State has made extra resources available for GCSE; we should all like more but at least it is a start - and not every textbook or piece of equipment is going to be immediately outmoded.

I believe that GCSE will be of enormous benefit to young people.

Peace in Wapping

From Father Derek Peel and others

Sir, We write to you both as residents of Wapping, and as members of St Peter's Church, London Dock, to ask you to allow us, through the pages of your newspaper, to make the following plea.

We have suffered inconvenience over the last few weeks, as a result of the discord between News International and the print unions, and most especially on Saturday evenings.

This Saturday, in the evening, we at St Peter's, and the people of all the churches in and around Wapping, will be celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We appeal to you and to the print unions to do everything

Green belt pressures

From Mr Iain Mills, MP for Meriden (Conservative)

Sir, My constituency of Meriden, which takes in the precious green corridor between Birmingham

Age concern

From Mr Peter Keeling

Sir, I entirely agree with Brian Crozier (March 19) about the euphemistic use of the word "elderly" when referring to old people. I have been fighting a losing battle in local government circles in the last decade over the use of this word.

Even worse is to call old people "geriatrics". One is reminded of the man who described his family as consisting of himself, his obstetric and his two paediatrics.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KEELING,
Director of Housing,
City of Swansea,
The Guildhall,
Swansea,
West Glamorgan.

Advertisers on TV

From Mr Wilfred Greatorex

Sir, Mr Michael Grade is right to be wary of the advertising man's finger in television programmes (March 21), but his claim that advertisers have never interfered with schedules and content needs qualification.

Shortly after the end of ATV's *The Power Game*, I was writer-producer of a series called *Hine* for the same company. As we were recording the first episode I noticed three elegant young men in the studio gallery. I found they came from an advertising agency; their task was to report on the kind of content that might "improve" the programme.

I explained that while I was aware that scenes of hanky-panky in a hayrick or the odd bottlefight might "improve" the ratings, there was no place for them in *Hine*. Neither would I ever be persuaded to add a cute child or dolly pet to the cast. I then told the interloping ad-men to leave. The programme controller backed me up, and I heard no more of the matter.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRED GREATORX,
Foxwell,
Berry Hill,
Taplow,
Nr Maidenhead,
Berkshire.

Fall of Adrianople

We shall never be 100 per cent ready for change and it would be criminal to postpone a long-awaited reform until every i has been dotted and every t crossed. Yours faithfully,
D. J. W. WILLIAMS,
Headmaster,
Devizes School,
The Green,
Devizes,
Wiltshire,
March 21.

From Mr Norman Brown
Sir, Presumptuous as it may be for a mere assistant teacher to challenge the statements of the President of the Secondary Heads Association, Mr Brown's alarmist and irresponsible letter must not go unquestioned.

He claims that the education service is totally unprepared. The many teachers and examination board officers who have worked for over five years to draw up statements of national criteria, to plan syllabuses, to make administrative arrangements find all their work dismissed in one emotive sweep. It is over twelve years since feasibility studies were undertaken: some "joint" examinations have been operational all that time - is this "total unpreparedness"?

If Mr Brown and his colleagues, instead of complaining about matters which are in their power to help to remedy, had attended some training courses - 50 per cent attended as well as 50 per cent unattended - they would have seen not "chaotic shambles" but concerned professionals anxious to get on with the task of introducing an important improvement in the assessment of our pupils.

True, syllabuses are not yet ready in their final form, but informed teachers have a good idea of their contents and thrust: true, resources are needed, but let us not think that all our present resources will have to be discarded - far from it.

Remember that the new system is based on the best of current practice - perhaps that explains some of the outcry. Yours faithfully,
N. BROWN,
18 Weston Lodge,
6 Lower Bristol Road,
Weston-Super-Mare,
March 22.

possible to allow the people of Wapping, and all the visitors who wish to enter or leave Wapping, to be left in peace so to do.

All Christians at this time will be celebrating mankind's redemption: please leave Wapping free to celebrate also. We write neither to criticise you, nor the print unions concerned, nor the police force; instead we ask you all to show us understanding at Easter, as Wapping by and large has shown understanding to the dispute that has been thrust upon it.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK PEELE, Rector,
KEITH CARLTON,
M. DESBOROUGH,
PHILIP EVE,
St Peter's Clergy House,
Wapping Lane, E1,
March 24.

and Coventry, has seen the creation of the National Exhibition Centre - very good news - the building of Birmingham International Airport - good news - the extension of Birmingham Airport - good news for the region but noise for the neighbours.

Now the residents are facing the proposal that Birmingham's bid for the Olympics should be based in our area, that Britain's biggest coalmine should be sited in our area; and a number of other large projects proposed for the green belt area. These include a huge high technology site and a massive housing development in one of the prettiest villages, Dorridge.

West Midlands has five million square feet of land available - some of it derelict - so why do we not do more to redevelop and return to useful purpose this derelict land?

Yours sincerely,
IAIN MILLS,
House of Commons,
March 17.

Two angles of the "impenetrable triangle" of Yanina, Adrianople, and Skutari, having now been demolished and the fate of Skutari having been determined by the Powers - thank, it is believed here, to the intervention of Austria-Hungary as peacemaker for Europe - the Balkan outlook is much clearer.

From Mr Jim Spicer, MP for Dorset West (Conservative)
Sir, In his letter to you (March 20) Mr Fuell deplored the fact that he and many thousands of other British residents abroad still did not have the right to vote in the United Kingdom elections.

I am happy to tell him that the Government has kept its promise to rectify this and that within the next few months all Britons who have been abroad for less than five years will be able to have their names included on next year's register of electors. The procedure to be followed to achieve this will be given maximum publicity on a world-wide basis.

Yours faithfully,
JIM SPICER,
House of Commons,
March 20.

Meaningful terms

From Mr R. G. Stuart-Prince

Sir, On March 10 I received a communication from an airline (admittedly foreign) advising me that its "flight attendants" had "initiated a work action".

My first reaction was that I was glad to hear it, but was it really necessary to tell me that they are at work? Reading further, I learned that, in fact, the "work action" is a "strike" and a "walkout".

Yours faithfully,
R. G. STUART-PRINCE,
Hill House,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
March 11.

ON THIS DAY

March 27 1913

The complexities of, and issues involved in, the two Balkan wars drew to a close in the first, 1912-1913. Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro deposed the Ottoman empire of most of its European territories, in doing so capturing Adrianople (now Edirne, Turkey). In the second, which began in June, 1913, the victors quarrelled over the partitioning, the subsequent settlements creating the tensions which eventually led to the Great War.

FALL OF ADRIANOPLE. THE EASTERN FRONT STORMED.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)
SOFIA, MARCH 26.

Adrianople has fallen. The cup of triumph of the Allies is full since this great achievement follows the surrender of Djavid Pasha to the Serbians on the banks of the Skutari.

The news of the first general assault yesterday had prepared the people of the Capital for the event, but prophecy has so often proved fruitless in the past that this time people refrained from immediate anticipation. At 10 o'clock this morning the streets were thronged and a crowd had gathered outside the War Office awaiting the latest news. The reception of the official bulletin was marked by a scene of enthusiasm. The town was belaguered as if by magic.

Details of the actual fighting are still scarce. The War Office bulletin of last night states that on the southern sector of the Adrianople fortress area the Eight (Tudja) Division captured the outpost of the enemy's position with 20 cannon, six mitrailleuses, and 800 prisoners, and that on all the other sectors a vigorous cannonade continued. At 10 o'clock last night the situation on the sectors was as follows: On the eastern sector the Bulgarian troops reached within 200 yards of the line of forts, capturing 1,000 Turkish soldiers, with six quickfiring and 21 cannon. At dawn this morning the Turkish position in the north of the town, it was reported, that the city was in flames at many points, and that the population were panic-stricken and fleeing along the front lines.

After the news of the fall of the fortress a group of students made a street demonstration and went to the Legation of Serbia and Greece, where they greeted the Ministers of the Allied States in great triumph.

"THE IMPENETRABLE TRIANGLE"

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
VIENNA, MARCH 26.

The fall of Adrianople has partially deflected attention from the Austro-Montenegrin dispute and Sir Edward Grey's important speech. The imminence of peace is felt to have stimulated the natural desire of Bulgaria not to leave Turkey the renown of having defended the fortress successfully against all attacks. There is, however, a disposition here to welcome the Bulgarian success as likely to facilitate the peace negotiations. Turkish prestige, it is argued, cannot suffer by the loss of the fortress after so plucky and tenacious a defence, while the fact that the place was never carried by storm (trees the Ottoman Government from the odium of having abandoned in diplomatic negotiation a position still held by the army.)

Two angles of the "impenetrable triangle" of Yanina, Adrianople, and Skutari, having now been demolished and the fate of Skutari having been determined by the Powers - thank, it is believed here, to the intervention of Austria-Hungary as peacemaker for Europe - the Balkan outlook is much clearer.

Dutch courage

From Mr Jim Spicer, MP for Dorset West (Conservative)

Sir, In his letter to you (March 20) Mr Fuell deplored the fact that he and many thousands of other British residents abroad still did not have the right to vote in the United Kingdom elections.

I am happy to tell him that the Government has kept its promise to rectify this and that within the next few months all Britons who have been abroad for less than five years will be able to have their names included on next year's register of electors. The procedure to be followed to achieve this will be given maximum publicity on a world-wide basis.

Yours faithfully,
JIM SPICER,
House of Commons,
March 20.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 26: The Right Hon Sir Philip Moore had an audience of The Queen this morning and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Private Secretary to her Majesty and Keeper of The Queen's Archives.

His Excellency Dr Basil A. Ince was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr. Cusman Ali (Deputy High Commissioner), Dr. Vincent Lasce (Counsellor), Mr. Stephen Kanga (First Secretary), Miss Razia Ali (First Secretary), Mrs. Vivien Lee (Attache), and Miss Marylene Alexander (Attache).

Mrs Ince had the honour of being received by The Queen. Sir William Harding (Deputy Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr. MacDonald was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Ascot.

Mrs MacDonald had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.40pm.

There were present: The Viscount Whitelaw (Lord President), the Right Hon Peter Walker, MP (Secretary of State for Energy), the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore (Private Secretary to The Queen), the Right Hon Norman Tebbit, MP (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) and the Right Hon John MacGregor, MP (Chief Secretary, Treasury).

The Hon Sir John Stocker, the Hon Sir Harry Woolf and the Hon Sir Donald Nicholls (Lords Justices of Appeal) and Sir William Heseltine (Deputy Private Secretary to The Queen) were sworn in Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

At the Council The Queen pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of England and Wales.

The Viscount Whitelaw had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

After the Council The Queen pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this afternoon opened the new Council Chamber at Bromley.

Having been received at the Civic Centre by Colonel Reginald Wood (Deputy Lieutenant) and the Mayor of Bromley (Councillor Richard Foster), Her Majesty and His Royal Highness viewed an exhibition in the Great Hall of various aspects of life in Bromley.

Afterwards The Queen opened the new Council Chamber and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Duchess of Grafton, the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine and Major Hugh Lindsay were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh.

President of the British Amateur Athletic Board, this morning at Buckingham Palace presented the BAAV Trophies and World Record Plaques for 1985.

His Royal Highness, President of the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, chaired the Institute meetings at Fishmongers' Hall, London, EC4.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 26: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited Smithfield Market and subsequently honoured the Master (Mr David Frank) and members of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Butchers with her presence at luncheon at Butcher's Hall.

Ruth, Lady Ferny, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 26: The Prince of Wales this morning visited Lee View House, Hackney, E5.

His Royal Highness was present at luncheon with the Grosvenor Estate Trustees at the Grosvenor Office, 53 Davies Street, W1.

Mr David Roycroft was in attendance.

The Prince and Princess of Wales this evening attended a performance of 'Messiah' at the Royal Festival Hall.

Afterwards their Royal Highnesses were entertained at dinner by His Excellency the French Ambassador and Madame Viot at the Royal Festival Hall.

March 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Josiah Wedgwood and Sons Limited at Barlaston.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Sir Arthur Bryan).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by The Lady Glenconner.

March 26: Princess Alexandra, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Transport, this afternoon received Major-General D.B.H. Collyer on assuming the appointment of Director General of Transport and Movements.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 26: Princess Alexandra, Patron of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, this afternoon visited Canada House, the newly renovated Nurses' Quarters at Royal Naval Hospital Haslemere, Gosport, Hampshire.

Her Royal Highness later opened HM Coastguard Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre at Marlow, Bucks.

Afterwards she attended a Reception at HMS Daedalus.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

A thanksgiving and memorial service for the life and work of the Rev Richard J. Hamper, General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council, 1979-1986, will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 1986, at 3pm, at the Great Hall of the various aspects of life in Bromley.

Afterwards The Queen opened the new Council Chamber and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Duchess of Grafton, the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine and Major Hugh Lindsay were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh.

Records for Newlyn school

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

Impressionist and modern pictures of middle quality have made a lot of money in London this week but rarely topped expectations.

While Sotheby's and Christie's stuck mainly to the continental schools, Phillips tried an offering of modern British paintings and this market proved much the most buoyant.

They scored two auction price records for the Newlyn school, the group of artists who worked in Cornwall at the turn of the century: £26,000 for Stanhope Forbes and £24,000 for Samuel John Lamorna Birch.

A rare oil by Russell Flint also set an auction price record for the artist at £25,200.

Sotheby's Tuesday evening sale totalled £4.1 million with

18 per cent left unsold.

A Monet river landscape of 1885, "L'Épée près de Giverny", sold for £244,000.

A fragment of a Van Gogh measuring 12 inches by nine and depicting a sailor and his sweetheart walking down a path secured £230,500 (estimate £250,000-£320,000).

Gustave Caillebotte valuations are climbing. Phillips's had a portrait at £24,600 (estimate £25,000-£70,000). Painted in 1893 this kind of Caillebotte would have been a £12,000 picture a couple of years ago.

Abstracts by Pevsner, Ben Nicholson and Max Ernst failed to sell, as well as a Henry Moore bronze maquette and a Calder mobile.

A Dall pastel of 1931, "La Chère", secured £79,200

(estimate £45,000-£55,000) but his two silhouettes of around 1934, "Two Figures", were unsold at £70,000 (estimate £70,000-£80,000).

Sotheby's secondary sale yesterday morning was 29 per cent unsold with a total of £2.2 million.

Two sessions at Christie's on Tuesday only scraped £257,000 with 17 per cent unsold. The British pictures at Phillips made £453,900 and had the lowest unsold score at 12 per cent.

The Arthur Frank collection of scientific instruments at Sotheby's made £239,632 with nine per cent unsold.

The top price was £25,850 (estimate £20,000-£25,000) for a rare compound microscope by John Marshall, the most eminent eighteenth-century English maker.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M. Drake and Miss E.C. Goss

The engagement is announced between Julius, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Drake, and Belinda, daughter of General Sir J.M. Drake, of Lady Grove.

Mr J.R. Allen and Miss J.A. Woods

The engagement is announced between John Robert, son of Mr and Mrs P.T. Allen, of Horsmonden, Kent, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.R. Kirby, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr M.S. Choksey and Miss U.M. Jenkins

The engagement is announced between Munchi, son of Mr and Mrs S.K. Choksey, of Hampstead, London, and U.M. Jenkins, of Michaelston-Le-Pit, South Glamorgan.

Dr J.P. Davis and Miss F.C. Marshall

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Professor Peter and Dr Elizabeth Davis, of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, and Miss F.C. Marshall, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire.

Dr D.C. Flinck and Miss F.M. Little

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Dr and Mrs H.C.R. Flinck, of Wellington, Shropshire, and Miss F.M. Little, of Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Mr V.A.M. Kennard and Miss G.E.M. Ames

The engagement is announced between Vivian, son of the late Major David Kennard and Mrs V.A.M. Kennard, of Cliffe House, Dorchester, Dorset, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Ames, of The Bury Cottage, Odham, Hampshire.

Mr J.M. Rees and Miss L.C. Thompson

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr M.W. Rees, FRCS, and Mrs L.C. Thompson, FRCS, of Devon, and Miss L.C. Thompson, FRCS, of Devon.

Mr J.C. Green and Mrs H.A. Douglas-Pennant

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Latest wills

Mr Thomas Joseph Cawdell, of 1, Ladbroke Grove, London, W2, died in a London hospital on February 27, 1986, leaving a will valued at £423,980.

Sir Cuthbert Barwick Clegg, of Great Barrow, Chester, former chairman of Martins Bank, left £286,948 net.

Mr John William Willington Brooke, of Gloucester, left £758,760 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Clough, Mr Harold Percy, of Keighley, £573,610.

Forster, Mr William, of Ebbw Vale, £374,421.

Mr Kirriham Sidney, of Broadstairs, £327,003.

Nash, Mr Noel Henry, of Hayling Island, £263,878.

Salmon, Mrs Katharine, of Ebbw Vale, £295,238.

Whittaker, Mrs Frances Audrey, of Farnham, Surrey, £417,877.

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OBITUARY

PROF S.G. CHECKLAND

Outstanding works of scholarship

Emeritus Professor Sydney Checkland, who died on March 22 at the age of 69 after a long illness, was for 25 years Professor of Economic History in the University of Glasgow.

There he created a thriving new department, served on numerous academic and public bodies, published half a dozen full length books, including his remarkable family biography of the Gladstones, and contributed to many more.

Sydney George Checkland was born in Ottawa in 1916 and started work as a ledger clerk in the Bank of Nova Scotia, studying at night and trying to save enough to go to university.

After a spell as an accountant with a local laundry company that was chronically illiquid but which he contrived to keep going by ingenious devices, he accumulated £250 and embarked on a B.Com. course at Birmingham University. He was president of the National Union of Students and the International Union of Students.

On joining the army, he won the best of honour as the best cadet of his year at Sandhurst. He served first in the British, then in the Canadian army and was severely wounded in Normandy in 1944. The following year he stood unsuccessfully for Parliament as a Commonwealth Party candidate.

His academic career took him from Birmingham to Liverpool where he spent nine years in the Department of Economic Science, then to Cambridge for four years as an economic historian, and finally to Glasgow. There he was able to realise his full potential, often enjoying the collaboration of his wife in the research he undertook.

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THE ARTS

Television
British
cinema
as a big
family

"Actors can be a terrible bore on set, although I like having dinner with them", said David Lean at the beginning of the last programme in the trilogy *British Cinema, A Personal View*, which was directed and presented by Richard Attenborough.

The programme was subtitled *A Marriage of Convenience*, and set itself the task of examining the relationship between the director and the actor in the British cinema. This it hardly did at all. Instead, it examined almost all the other vital relationships in the medium, particularly those between actors and the big screen and directors and film in all its forms.

The two previous programmes in this short series were presented by Alan Parker and Lindsay Anderson, who reappeared, along with the great and good from the rest of their profession, to talk to Attenborough about their work. This programme was the most amiable and broad-based of the trilogy; its starting-point was during the Second World War, when the young Attenborough worked as an air-gunner/cameraman with the RAF film unit at Finewood.

The central argument which Attenborough made was that British cinema should never have departed from the home-orientated documentary-influenced style of that era, when the wartime audiences rejected the glamorous escapism of Hollywood. In pursuing this theme there were many entertaining excursions down memory lane, and many inspiring vistas into possible new territory which were pointed out by David Putnam, Roland Joffe and Ken Loach.

There were also many personal digressions in which Attenborough defended the record of the British Film Institute, pointed out that cinema attendances had increased 37 per cent in British Film Year, and deplored the Press-influenced belief that British cinema really began with *Charles of France*. It was an audacious, engaging programme in a series which was all too short.

Celia Brayfield

Concerts
Vibrant
Mahler
LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall

Mahler's Fourth Symphony was one of the first works through which London became acquainted with Klaus Tennstedt at the beginning of this decade. His performances are still growing in intensity. Tuesday night's reached fever-pitch. Tennstedt has always quite fearlessly, vocally even, taken Mahler at his word, making the score simply vibrate with its minutely marked stage-directions. Acents, sforzandi, sudden swells and equally sudden ebbs are what make him such a starting Mahler conductor.

Three long-drawn notes of anacrusis, and a gasp of momentary silence was the only pause for breath in the first movement. Horns played with the agility of flutes, flutes sounded as steady and resonant as brass, as each successive climax was almost imperceptibly achieved.

There was little humour about the scherzo. Indeed, there was barely time to refresh the squawking of the solo folk-fiddle before the horn asserted its rights, and, before we knew what was happening, theme and counter-theme were battling it out for supremacy. The slow movement began with

Theatre
A story written
in bloodThe Normal Heart
Royal Court

Larry Kramer's play is the first study of AIDS from the viewpoint of its homosexual victims to appear in the English-speaking theatre. It conveys the terror of belonging to a community stricken by a plague that leaves the rest of society untouched; and the paranoia that develops in the face of official inertia and the anger and pain that well up even among those who escape infection. Whatever else there is to be said about it, *The Normal Heart* is an important public document written in blood.

That is also where the problems start. Sheridan Morley on Tuesday profiled Mr Kramer as a screenwriter who put his muscle into campaigning for AIDS sufferers when the New York authorities were shutting their eyes to anything that might uncover a poisonous worm in the Big Apple. Ned Weeks, the play's hero, embarks on a similar campaign. He also sets up an organization called Gay Men's Health Crisis, runs into trouble with its committee and leaves, as Mr Kramer did. The obvious next step for Ned Weeks is to write a play impugning Mayor Koch and the *New York Times* for turning a blind eye to the mounting fatalities and also keeping GMHC's delegates hanging around in the outer offices of City Hall.

The play, in other words, is also an intensely personal document in

which you can observe Mr Kramer struggling to find a form to give shape and distance to autobiography. It begins as an orthodox campaign drama, along the lines of *An Enemy of the People*, showing an energetically public-spirited hero embarking on an unpopular cause. The condition of such a story is that the hero will win; but that is not the story Mr Kramer has to tell. And, indeed, it becomes increasingly difficult to see Ned as a conquering hero when his approach is that of a blinkered publicist. His idea of vanquishing the disease is to bump up its number of column-inches in the *New York Times*.

In the second act Mr Kramer finds the nerve to tell his own story and remove Ned from his pedestal by exposing him as a haranguing bully and hopeless negotiator who is justly elbowed out by his own committee as the price of getting some help from the city. From that point he subsides into a private figure, and — in by far the most effective scenes in the play — we follow his last days with his dying lover (a *New York Times* reporter who was one of the early victims of his lashing tongue).

Felix, the lover, is played by Paul Jesson, who shows an amiably easygoing man, first struck down with panic and then wrecked by chemotherapy, tottering into a lawyer's office to bequeath his goods to Ned's house no more than a croak, but still courteous and articulate. This really is a



The final scene: Martin Sheen (left), impressive in sympathetic grief, with Paul Jesson delivering a magnificent piece of acting

magnificent piece of acting. In London, the play could never hope to match its local impact in New York. But David Hayman's production could surely have done more to punch home its documentary qualities and rising death statistics than by confining it to

Geoff Rose's black and white box papered with unchanging newspaper headlines. Also, it is hard to see the supposed bully, obsessed with his physical unattractiveness and inability to form relationships, in Martin Sheen's performance of prolonged and ill-sustained parody from an overworked GMHC

member — carry the ring of total authenticity; as does Frances Tomelty as a polio-stricken doctor, diagnosing a queue of impending fatalities from her wheelchair in a state of ever-mounting rage.

Irving Wardle

Cabaret

Milva
Almeida

The Berlin cabaret is far too much of a cliché for anyone these days just to get up and perform Brecht songs: a singer has to perform a performance, if not perform herself performing a performance. Milva, I think, probably stands in this further world of irony, which allows her to put on an outrageous act and get away with it.

She comes on for the first half of her recital looking like Louise Brooks, and throws herself into suffering and sensuous attitudes for a selection of songs from *The Threepenny Opera*. Having thus taken on all the ghosts of Weimar decadence, she is able in the second half to relax a bit; but, bawling the outfit may be less insistently period, the perfor-

mances are still wildly over the top.

Every gesture is thoroughly rehearsed (Giorgio Strehler is acknowledged as director of the entertainment), and surely nobody could be taken in by the hands clasped in anguish, the enormous mouth yelling defiance at fate and the inequities of men, the word "porco" breathed as a curse at the sky. Milva's response to the inescapability of cliché is quite simply to present that cliché as flamboyantly as possible. But it might be easier to enjoy the effect if the repertoire of vocal and dramatic act were a little wider.

Milva's theatrical tradition is that of Italian clowning, with her mouth and her hands her chief expressive tools; it is perhaps only the cabaret style that makes them seem a little limited. Her vocal limitations, though, are quite plain and, however effective her way of bowing over kipped vocal chords, one soon begins to tire

of it in a continuous programme — especially when the only alternative is to listen to an accompanist of peculiar ineptitude.

I am sorry to be disappointed by an artist who impressed

London débuts

Scott Kritzner, from San Francisco, is a guitarist who needs to make further progress. His programme revealed sensitive responses weakened by insecure technique and a consequent lack of adequate velocity to achieve the expressive demands of the repertoire he had chosen. There is much he can do well: the slow movements of his Mozart *Divertimento No 4* were sung out in a fine, subdued legato, and his Variations on the traditional Japanese *Sakura* proved his sensitivity to the guitar's acoustic palette. Walton's *Five Bagatelles*, though, and Bach's *Fourth Lute Suite* both lost their way.

Paul Griffiths

Hilary Finch

Raimondo Campisi has considerable confidence and flair as a performer: indeed his decision to play his piano along with bass and drum-kit in Gershwin at the end of his programme showed his enterprise as an entertainer. But a performance ceases to be entertaining when every piece becomes a mere vehicle for showmanship. In Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata and Chopin's *Nocturne*, *Nocturne* and *Polonaise*, which formed the lightweight first half, Campisi showed little regard for either composer's idiom.

Hilary Finch

No repugnance, no pity

Talk of the Devil
Palace, Watford

The inheritance of a Catholic upbringing in a heathen land such as Britain provides a useful measure of cultural alienation for the aspiring writer. In the right hands it can also provide a wealth of ready subject-matter; in the case of this new piece by Mary O'Malley, receiving here its world premiere, subject-matter is pretty much all we get.

The author's broad purpose is to show the gradual breakdown of a Hammersmith Irish family from 1959 to 1983. With the parents living out their own form of purgatory, the two children make their own choices. The son marries the daughter of the rich Protestant for whom his mother

used to char, his sister, both prim and promiscuous, is forced into an abortion, remains at home and finally makes a very late bid for freedom by setting up home with a Buddhist.

She is also assailed by visitations from a small cast of unearthly beings: a ringleted cockney Devil, an iconic Virgin Mary, St Mary Magdalene and lastly a pair of saffron-clad Buddhists. As a comic device, this is introduced far too early in the proceedings, with Ian Dury's Devil encouraging her to look up rude words in the dictionary on the eve of her confirmation, and it has throughout the unhappy effect of muddling the rhetorical connections and making Kate Lock's character a cipher.

The portrait of beleaguered bigotry offered by Annette

Crosbie's obtuse snob of a mother is uncomfortably acute, with her most effective lines seemingly drawn from life. This tends to set her out on her own in contrast with the surrounding caricatures. T.P. McKenna is an off-the-peg intemperate Irish father and, remarkably for so experienced a player, makes a poor fist of acting drunk.

But it is the script itself which does not seem to know quite where it is going, and which has given the director, Bill Alexander, such a difficult task.

It is hard for anyone to observe a Catholic family such as this without feeling repugnance for the religion as much as pity for its practitioners. Miss O'Malley succeeds in making us feel neither.

Martin Cropper

FELICITY KENDAL
PETER MCENRY
BENJAMIN WHITROW
PAUL SHELLEY

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Budapest	s	10	50	Karachi	c	20	85	Peking	s	14	67	Vancouver	r	8	48
Buenos Aires	f	21	70	L. Palmas	c	17	83	Perth	s	27	81	Venice	s	11	62
Calcutta	s	24	75	Lisbon	c	13	55	Prague	f	8	46	Vienne	c	8	46
Capo d'Or	s	25	77	Lucerne	c	13	55	Reykjavik	f	1	34	Warsaw	s	10	50
Catania	r	14	57	Luzernberg	f	3	37	Rio de Janeiro	f	20	85	Washington	s	17	83
Chicago	f	21	70	L. Angeles	a	15	84	Riyadh	s	24	75	Wien	f	15	69
Ch'ch'ch'ch'	s	15	69	Mexico	s	10	50	Rio de J.	f	27	81	Zurich	c	5	41

Cape To	s	25	77	Locarno	s	13	55	Rayok	f	8	40	Viana	c	9	46
C'blanca	f	14	57	Luxemb	f	3	37	Rhodes	f	20	68	Washin	s	10	50
Chicago	f	21	70	L'Angels	s	18	64	Riyach	s	24	75	W'ngor	f	15	55
C'blanca	s	16	60	L'Angels	s	18	64	Riyach	s	24	75	W'ngor	f	15	55

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

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FT-SE 100
1653.9 (+20.1)
USM (Datastream)
117.19 (+0.38)

THE POUND

US Dollar
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W German mark
3.4328 (+0.0161)
Trade-weighted
76.0 (+0.6)

Oil payout halved

Tricontrol yesterday cut its final dividend for the year to last December 31 by 5p to a token 1p. Combined with the interim payment of 4p, the total payment was half that for 1984. At the time of the convertible rights issue in February 1985, the board said it intended to maintain the dividend, assuming there were no unforeseen circumstances. The company said it had taken into consideration uncertainty about the level to which the oil price had sunk and the length of time it might remain there.

Pretax profit fell by 33 per cent from £39.3 million to £26.5 million on turnover down 16 per cent at £100.6 million.

BAT lower

BAT Industries' pretax profits fell by 17 per cent to £1.168 million in 1985. Earnings per share are 14p cent lower at 45.78p, but the dividend is being increased by 17 per cent to 12.1p.

Tempos, page 23

Woolworth up

Woolworth Holdings made pretax profits of £81.3 million in the year to February 1, a rise of 43 per cent. Retail profits were 72 per cent higher at £64.9 million. A total dividend of 10p against 7.75p was declared.

Tempos, page 23

Leisure win

The Court of Appeal has upheld a ruling in favour of Leisure Investments, which won a court case against Plesman in 1984 over the conversion of a shopping site in Oxford Street, London.

Pay threat

Executives at Mazda Motor, Japan's third largest car maker, face pay cuts of about 15 per cent because of falling profits, the company said.

Glynwed buy

Glynwed International is to pay Aus\$18 million (£8.73 million) in cash for Philmac Proprietary, an Australian manufacturer of pipe fittings and valves.

Lee issue

Lee International is seeking a listing on the Stock Exchange. Samuel Montagu and Co, the merchant bank, is offering 16.66 million ordinary shares for sale at 180p apiece. Wood Mackenzie and Co is the broker to the issue.

Office plan

The Crown Estate Commissioners and Chesterfield Properties have agreed to withdraw proposals for the development of a hotel at Buckingham Gate, London. The site will now be developed by Chesterfield as a 160,000 sq ft office and residential scheme.

Correction

Peter Reed (Textiles), the Lancashire bed linen manufacturer, will continue to trade through normal retail outlets and not sell direct to the public as stated in some editions on March 22.

Oil price slump pushes trade back into deficit

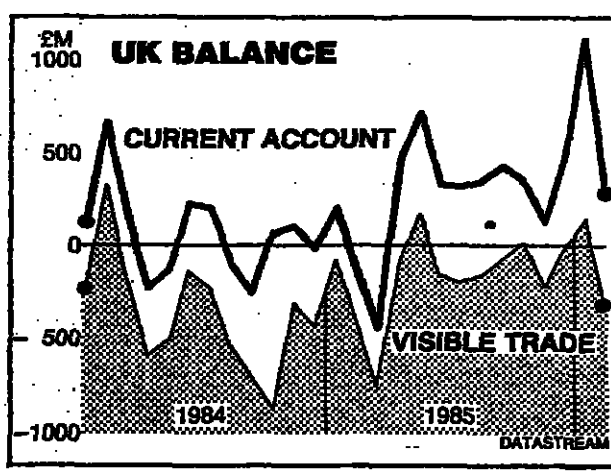
By David Smith,
Economic Correspondent

Britain's visible trade returned to deficit last month, after an abnormal surplus in January. The overall balance of payments also deteriorated, with a current account surplus last month of £262 million, compared with £1.14 billion in January.

There is evidence that lower oil prices are starting to affect Britain's trade position. The surplus on oil trade, which reached a record of £997 million in January as oil companies rushed to run down stocks as prices fell, dropped to £685 million last month.

Oil exports remained stronger in volume terms. But lower prices produced a sharp fall in the value of Britain's oil shipments.

The sharp fall in the oil surplus was reflected in a shift into deficit on visible trade overall. There was a trade deficit of £338 million last month, compared with a surplus of £140 million in January.



The trade figures had little effect on the foreign exchange market, where the main factor was profit-taking on the dollar. The pound rose by 1.25 cents to \$1.4742, and gained a penny to DM3.4322 against the mark. The sterling index rose 0.6 points to 76.0.

On the stock market, traders decided that the sharp falls in response to the break-up of the Organization of Petroleum

Exporting Countries meeting on Monday, were overdone. The Financial Times 30-share index rose 15.7 points to close at 1380.4, after Tuesday's record fall.

Exports dropped by £70 million to £6,255 billion last month, but imports rose by £400 million to £6,524 billion. There is evidence that imports are being boosted by a rush in purchases of capital equip-

ment, to take advantage of the present capital allowances, which expire at the end of the financial year.

There was a manufacturing trade deficit of £382 million last month, after a £266 million deficit in January. However, exports of manufactures did rise between January and February, by £291 million.

In the latest three months, the volume of exports was up by 1 per cent, and the volume of imports fell by 1.5 per cent. The estimated monthly surplus on invisible trade is now £600 million, compared with £400 million a month last year. This is mainly due to Britain's abatement on 1985 EEC budget contributions, which is being received in monthly instalments.

Lloyds Bank yesterday followed the other three big clearing banks in cutting its mortgage rate. The Lloyds rate on both repayment and endowment mortgages falls by 1 percentage point to 12 per cent, applicable immediately for new borrowers and from May 1 for existing borrowers.

Storm as panel orders ban on takeover advertising

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The City's Takeover Panel last night found itself at the centre of a growing storm of protest from the advertising and newspaper industries after attempting to ban the use of takeover advertising.

The Panel said it had become concerned about the use of takeover advertising which it said often attempted to "denigrate" the opposition or indulged in the selective use of statistics to create a misleading impression.

Companies involved in a takeover battle were required to ensure that their advertisements complied with the highest standards of care and

accuracy. But this responsibility had fallen by the way side during the current wave of heated takeover activity in the City, the Panel said.

Advertisements connected with takeovers would be severely restricted with the effect that takeover advertisements of the type that have filled the pages of the national press over the last year will not be allowed in future.

The statement drew an immediate protest from the advertising industry some of whose members challenged the Panel's right to make the ruling.

The Institute of Practitioners and Advertisers called the statement "banal" while the Advertising Association said that the Panel should not be meddling in an area that was the responsibility of the Advertising Standards Authority.

Imperial Group, the tobacco and brewing combine which has been using advertising extensively in its campaign to fight off a hostile £2.5 billion takeover bid from Hanson Trust, said it had been advised that the ruling was in direct contravention of EEC regulations allowing freedom of expression and communication.

Bill to privatize gas under attack

By David Young Esqery
Correspondent

The Government's draft Bill to privatize British Gas, which has moved from the Commons to the Lords after its third reading, has been attacked by the man who heads Britain's electricity supply industry, the main competitor in the industrial and domestic sectors.

Mr Philip Jones, the chairman of the Electricity Council, said yesterday that the draft Bill left "much to be desired" and could result in our industry being placed at a competitive disadvantage.

Mr Jones, who steered the industry through the year-long miners' strike and who fought off Government attempts to raise electricity prices by more than the rate of inflation, was speaking in Bournemouth, Dorset, at the annual conference of the Electrical Power Engineers Association.

He regretted that the electricity industry had failed to convince the public of the economic advantage of nuclear power and the nuclear industry's safety record.

He said that in the second decade of the next century nuclear power would be needed in quantity as better use is made of hydrocarbon fuels, oil and coal.

Nuclear plant, Mr Jones said, accounted for about 17 per cent of Britain's generating capacity and this was likely to go up to about 30 per cent by the end of the century.

He said: "Compare our record with that of other European countries: France — already over 65 per cent of their generation from nuclear power and likely to go up to 85 per cent in the year 2000. Belgium, already over 60 per cent and Switzerland, 40 per cent."

"It gives me no pleasure to buy nuclear electricity from France, because it is about 25 per cent cheaper than we can produce here. I would prefer to produce cheap electricity in this country."

Mr Jones said it was important that the National Coal Board offered supplies to the power industry at prices close to those prevailing in the world market. Coal costs amount to 35 to 40 per cent of electricity costs to customers.

Employers hopeful on job rises

By Jeremy Warner
Business Correspondent

Employers are more confident than this time last year about job prospects, but as many manufacturers expect to cut back on their workforce as plan increases.

These are the main findings of a survey on job prospects by Manpower Ltd, the temporary staffing specialists. Slightly more employers than in the last spring quarter plan to increase their staff and fewer expect staff cuts.

But the survey sounds a warning that the upturn is small, largely reflecting greater recruitment in the public sector and a seasonal upswing in the services industry.

Manufacturers reported no improvement, for the fifth successive quarter, and as many expected to cut back on their workforce as planned increases.

"We will need to see a more significant improvement in confidence among manufacturing employers in particular, before the present modest upturn can be said to herald a trend," Manpower said.

More than one in four employers forecast a staff increase in the next three months, which is well up on the seasonally depressed first quarter when only a fifth of employers did.

Staff cuts were foreseen by fewer than 8 per cent of the 1,588 large employers

Aircraft sales save Horizon from loss

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Horizon Travel, Britain's third largest package holiday operator, pushed its pretax profits up by 15 per cent to £14.46 million for the year to the end of last November — but only aircraft sales and currency gains allowed it to do so.

Without them, it would have fallen to a £2 million pretax loss as turnover dropped by a tenth to £135.7 million.

Horizon raised £13.6 million from the sale of two aircraft. It has also been re-equipping and now owns five aircraft with four others leased.

The total dividend is unchanged at 4.4p a share. Horizon was hit last year by price competition and discounting in the wake of the miners' strike, bringing a "substantial" decline in Horizon's carryings.

Horizon has matched Thomson Holidays, the market leader, which slashed its prices by a fifth ready for the coming summer, and has gained trade volume as a result, with this winter's bookings up by a quarter so far and those for next summer at 350,000, double last year's figures at the same period.

More than 70 per cent of Horizon's 1986 summer capacity of more than 500,000 has so far been sold.

But Mr Bruce Tanner, Horizon's chairman, admits that the volume gains, probably taken from smaller tour operators, are at the expense of margins.

Horizon's Orion fleet of nine aircraft is likely to be operating this summer with the highest load factors for some time, said Mr Tanner. Rather more than 70 per cent of seat capacity is taken.

Rank refused appeal

By Our City Staff

The Rank Organisation has been refused the right to appeal to the House of Lords in its attempt to overturn the Independent Broadcasting Authority's veto of its bid for Granada Group.

Rank withdrew its £750 million bid for Granada a week ago, because the cost of underwriting had risen to more than £8 million and the

bid was stuck in the courts. Rank obtained leave from the Takeover Panel to re-bid within 21 days if the IBA's objections could be overcome.

All legal remedies are now dead and Rank is looking at a number of alternatives to try and revive its bid. Rank has an 8 per cent stake in Granada, bought at a cost of about £38 million.

City bodies outline rules to curb unsolicited calls

By Teresa Poole

Strict rules to curtail the sale of investments through unsolicited calls on the general public were put forward by the planned new City regulatory authorities yesterday.

The draft regulations from the Securities and Investments Board and the Marketing of Investments Board would significantly restrict the practice of so-called "cold-calling" in situations where there is not also a cooling-off period during which investors could cancel the agreement.

The rules cover telephone calls, clipboard selling under the guise of market research on the streets, and doorstep selling.

It is proposed that unsolicited calls on the general public — apart from professional and business investors — will be banned unless the investor has, in writing, authorized such calls.

This means stockbroking

companies will have to get written permission from regular clients who want to be informed of market opportunities. In particular, cold-calling will not be allowed on small shareholders of companies involved in takeover battles or on members of the public in relation to commodity futures.

In the case of life assurance, salesmen will be permitted to cold-call but there will be improved cancellation rights for customers. Similar provisions will apply to the unit trust market where unsolicited calls are not at present permitted.

Cancellation rules will be extended to cover all life assurance contracts and the cooling-off period will be increased from 10 to 14 days. Detailed information on changes and benefits, cancellation procedures and commissions payable will have to be disclosed in the cooling-off notice.

Because of the wide variety of circumstances in which an unsolicited call may lead to a contract, the cancellation rules will apply to all unit trust and life assurance deals and not just those resulting from cold-calling.

Under the Financial Services Bill, which this week completed its passage through the Commons Select Committee, investment agreements following an unsolicited call which are not permitted by the regulations will not be enforceable against the investor.

Our Financial Correspondent writes:

Mr Michael Howard, the Consumer Affairs Minister, said yesterday that the Government would probably try to restore to the Financial Services Bill the power of the Secretary of State to transfer all or part of his powers to any designated agency which met the necessary criteria.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Britannia logjam may soon be broken

The uncertainty overhanging the future of Britannia Arrow, the fund management and banking group, looks as if it is at last coming to an end. Yesterday, Guinness Peat disposed of the rest of its ordinary shares in the company, after the failure of its takeover attempt, which gave the combination of Robert Maxwell and Montagu Investment Management the opportunity of increasing its Britannia stake to 29 per cent. Mr Maxwell and MIM can hardly go further without making a bid of their own — unless the next move comes from Britannia itself.

This has led to a damaging hiatus when several key Britannia people left including Norman Riddell, managing director of investment. Recently the Royal bid appears to have lapsed as the Britannia board felt it was not generous enough. That has again left the door open for Mr Maxwell and Mr Stevens.

The likelihood that Mr Maxwell, who holds the larger stake, is planning a bid of his own looks remote. The real aim is to link MIM and Britannia, almost certainly through a bid by Britannia. That means securing the agreement of Aetna, the US insurance company which owns MIM — and offered the right price. Aetna may not now object. The US company is far from enamoured of its fund management subsidiary which resents being tied to such a large foreign parent. Aetna has in any case hedged its bets by buying Tyndall, another fund management company.

The chief stumbling block may be how Mr Stevens and Mr Geoffrey Rippon, chairman of Britannia, share responsibilities once the two fund management companies combine. The solution may be for Mr Stevens to take a back seat, remaining in charge of MIM, until Mr Rippon retires. Whatever the details of the arrangement turn out to be, a link between Britannia and MIM should mean the spinning off of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant banking subsidiary of Britannia, whose position would look even more anomalous in the enlarged investment management group.

If Britannia is not to be further damaged by the uncertainties over its future, a move to break the log-jam must come soon.

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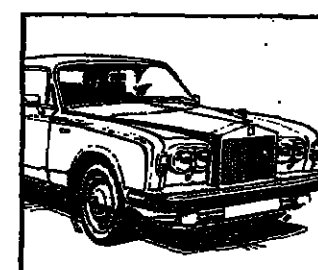
RESULTS FOR 1985

	1985	1984
Life Branches	£000	£000
Total Premium Income	133,522	125,713
Total Surplus for Policyholders	75,509	66,363
General Branch		
Total Premium Income	17,719	16,321
Underwriting (Loss)	(2,602)	(3,099)
Investment Income	1,948	1,824
Profit (Loss) after Tax	(384)	(838)
Transfer from Claims Equalisation Reserve	—	235
Profit and Loss Account		
Transfer from life branches and Unit linked	6,275	5,435
Transfer (to) from general branch	(384)	(603)
Total Surplus for the year, including other net income	6,585	5,469
Net Dividend for the year for stockholders	29.8p	25.5p

BONUS DECLARATION FOR POLICYHOLDERS

Ordinary Branch	Industrial Branch
Reversionary Bonuses	Reversionary Bonuses
Ordinary Policies	Annuities
A scale from £5.50% to £7.50% of sum assured	A scale from £6.75% to £9.75% of annuity
(1984-£5.50% to £7.50%)	(1984-£6.65% to £8.65%)
PLUS	PLUS
increased scale of terminal bonuses	special reversionary bonus and increased scale of terminal bonuses

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THE TIMES

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 1789.75 (+11.25)
Tokyo
Nikkei Dow 19059.72 (+232.85)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 1618.80 (+7.91)
Amsterdam
Amex 281.5 (+10.59)
Sydney
ASX 1125.6 (+43.0)
Frankfurt
Frankfurt 2080.2 (+12.0)
Brussels
Brussels 468.05 (+17.01)
Paris
CAC 323.5 (same)
Zurich
Zurich 509.40 (same)

GOLD

London
Gold 344.50-345.50 (£233.75-234.25)
New York
Comex 344.70-345.20

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:
Lucas 853p (+40p)
Natwest 805p (+20p)
Turner and Newall 211p (+12p)
Brixton 153p (+13p)
Micro Focus 136p (+25p)
STG 136p (+10p)
B Matthews 700p (+45p)
Hillards 208p (+17p)
ONG 305p (+22p)
Combined English 564p (+30p)
Bat Ind 286p (+15p)
Fisons 575p (+34p)

CURRENCIES

Wellcome 225p (+15p)
Low Howard 418p (+38p)
Standard Chart 567p (+20p)
Prudential 912p (+20p)
Stock Corp 875p (+30p)
Inchcape 378p (+20p)
Lornto 296p (+11p)
EBC 190p (+15p)
Sag Furniture 118p (+15p)
Trade Indemnity 525p (+25p)

INTEREST RATES

London
Bank Rate 11%
3-month Interbank 11%-11%
3-month eligible bills 11%-11%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 7%
3-month Treasury Bills 6.41-6.40%
30-year bonds 11%-11%

COMMODITIES

RECEIVED

100-443886-100

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Strong pound aids partial rebound in share prices

Share prices staged a strong recovery yesterday after the near-50 point drop of the past two sessions. The continued strength of sterling in spite of oil price uncertainties and the hostilities in the Middle East — plus an encouraging survey from the Confederation of British Industry — had share prices rebounding as soon as the market opened.

After pausing during mid-session, shares continued climbing to close at the best levels of the day. The FT-30 index rose by 13.7 points to 1380.4, while the FT-SE 100 climbed by 20.1 points to 1653.9.

Another constant stream of mainly favourable trading statements helped to sustain yesterday's change of mood. There was also evidence of selective new-time interest for the next account, which begins after the Easter break. The firm found help to revive those flagging hopes of another cut in interest rates.

Government securities recovered almost all of Tuesday's losses of 1½ points and stores were among the most heavily traded sectors.

Banks bounced back by 15p to 25p, with Standard Chartered up 20p to 567p on

further reaction to Tuesday's results. Presidential gained another 20p to 912p after comments on Tuesday's figures and Britannic added 10p to 904p following its statement.

Among the many companies reporting, Lucas soared 38p to 651p in response to the more-than-doubled interim profits — well above market estimates. BAT Industries turned in the expected £1.16 billion profits, but dealers were cheered by a slight increase in the dividend and an encouraging analysis meeting afterwards. The shares closed 15p higher at 396p.

Others to respond well to higher earnings were BICC 335p, Bridge 163p, Horizon Travel 125p, Bernard Matthews 700p, Lowe Howard 418p and Stag Furniture 118p — all between 5p and 30p higher.

Also outstanding was Trade Indemnity, no less than 95p higher at 525p on the 200 per cent scrip issue proposal. Fisons surged 34p to 575p, following a new drug presentation at a meeting of analysts.

Wellcome at 225p, up 13p, rose in sympathy also, stimulated by the anticipation of US buying interest. Turner

and Newall rallied 12p to 211p after recent results and Tarmac put on 4p to 478p on news of the Thermalite acquisition plans.

In engineers, disappointing profits knocked 17p from Babcock at 196p, but Birmah hardened 2½p to 128p in front of today's market.

Buoyant stores featured Combined English, 22p higher at 243p, excited by vague talk of a bid from GUS, 30p to the good at 964p.

In contrast, Woolworth slipped 10p to 613p in spite of profits slightly better than expected. Imperial Group added 3p to 345p as Hanson Trust extended its bid and announced over 28 per cent acceptance.

Oils made a brighter showing, with rises extending to 13p, but Tricentral tumbled 14p to 71p after sharply lower profits and a cut in the dividend payout.

British Car Auctions rallied 10p to 135p on a press suggestion that the company was contemplating selling its US auction operation. The appointment of a new chief executive boosted Kenning Motor 15p to 208p. Tezer Kemsley, which has launched a bid for Kenning, improved

by 6p to 135p. Firmer builders had Barrat up 6p to 142p.

Spring Ram gained another 7p to 410p, still reflecting recent good results. Brighter electricals features STC at 134p, up 12p, after an upgrading by Scrimgeour Vickers.

Magnetic Materials, a weak market since the disappointing profits earlier this week, recouped 10p to 78p, Arthur Wood dipped 6p to 74p after reduced dividend and profits.

In properties, Stock Conversion was hoisted 30p to 615p on rumours of a bid from Stockley. Pentland was in demand at 505p, up 20p. Among overseas issues, Inchcape jumped 20p to 376p on talk of a bid from Louth, itself 11p higher at 296p (after 300p) on takeover rumours.

Sangers Photographic rose by 13p to 108p after comment. Satisfactory statements supported Forward Technology at 39p, Steel Bull 232p, H Young 173p and Gibbs and Dandy 36p — between 2p and 8p better.

Renewed takeover speculation stimulated Raine Industries at 47½p, up 4½p. BPCC returned from a 24-hour suspension at 237p, up 7p, as dealers digested the implication of the Pergamon deal.

Pound rate robs BICC of profits

By Our City Staff

BICC would have shown a profit increase of 20 per cent but for sterling's rise against other currencies, it reported yesterday.

As it was, pretax profit was up only 5 per cent to £92 million from £87 million. An increased final dividend of 7.5p against 7.04p in 1984 is recommended, making a total of 11p. Dividend will be paid on May 15.

The report also proposed that, subject to the annual meeting's approval, shareholders should continue to be entitled to elect to receive additional fully paid shares in lieu of all or part of the final dividend.

Turnover was £2.11 million, up from £2.03 million. BICC said: "The full extent of the improvement is obscured in the figures reported as the profit increase would have been about 20 per cent were it not for the appreciation of sterling against other currencies in 1985."

Of the four group companies, Cables and International improved their performance. Balfour Beatty maintained profits despite Middle Eastern problems and Technologies were somewhat down, mainly because of problems in the American electronics industry.

The company has decided to change the basis of accounting by converting profits into sterling at average rather than closing rates of exchange, so moderating the impact of exchange rate movements and reflecting more fairly the underlying performance.

Comparisons for 1984 had been restated to reflect this.

Stockley in peace talks

By Judith Hamley

Stock Conversion, the property company, is to hold talks today with its unwelcome 26.5 per cent shareholder, Stockley, the aggressive young property company, to try to break the deadlock between the two.

Stock Conversion's shares jumped 30p to 615p yesterday on hopes of a quick settlement.

Stockley would find a takeover of Stock Conversion difficult as it has embarked on a purchase with its shares trading at a premium and it has no cash. Stock Conversion, though cash rich, would be reluctant to pay a high price for Stockley. A joint company has been suggested.

Profits dip at book group

Associated Book

Publishers' pretax profits dropped from £8.08 million to £7.76 million in 1985. But the group — which publishes the best-selling Adrian Mole series and owns Hammonds Bookshops and Methuen — said that its continued strength and prospects justified a 12 per cent increase in the dividend to 5.6p a share.

Woolies plans more wonders

The most notable feature of Woolworth Holdings' 1985-6 results was the turnaround at F W Woolworth from a loss of £5.1 million to a profit of £17.6 million on a 3 per cent fall in sales. Turnover at the continuing 850 stores rose 3 per cent.

The formula, however, is still far from right with margins at only 1.7 per cent. The solution, unveiled yesterday, is to slim down merchandise further into six key areas, which make money, and unload those that do not. Adult underwear and food are the two largest casualties and will be gone from all Woolies stores by the end of the year. They account for 15 per cent of sales, but are barely profitable.

The cost of the withdrawal in terms of stock losses, revaluing the stores (which will take two to three years) and redundancies will be £29.1 million, taken in last year's figures as an extraordinary item. The benefit from freeing around 1 million square feet of space to high margin goods like children's wear and toys, confectionery and kitchenware will be felt to some extent this year, but even more so next year.

Elsewhere in the group, B&Q saw profits 20 per cent higher. Growth slowed in the second half as enforcement of the Sunday trading laws hit home, but this should be short-lived. A further 25 stores will be opened this year, taking the total above 200.

Comet's profits dropped 8 per cent to £13.7 million. Action has been taken to try to regain the marketing momentum lost to Dixons and management changes have been made. Comet is also expanding with 34 stores planned this year.

Pretax profits of £105 million before property profits are expected this year, giving a prospective p/e ratio of under 15. Given the potential for even stronger profit growth in 1987-8, the shares at 613p do not look expensive even after all the bid speculation.

Lucas Ind/Babcock Int

Stock market investors face a dangerous tendency to take published accounts at face value.

Lucas Industries yesterday reported an increase in interim pretax profits from £15.3 million to £38 million.

Enough to send its shares 38p higher to 651p. Babcock International, however, managed to lift its profits from £31.6 million to only £34.5 million before tax last year, so its shares were marked down by 17p to 196p.

The market happily ignored their bottom line performance, which was very similar. Lucas charged a hefty £34.2 million below the line, made up of provisions, writedowns and losses on the Lucas Electrical businesses being closed.

Even though Babcock was in the happy position of having retained earnings, its shareholders' funds were also denuded by exchange rates.

Babcock was widely criticised for boosting its profits by a one-off £6 million holiday from pension fund contributions, without which the reported result would have been lower. By the same token Lucas, which earlier announced a two-year holiday worth £20 million a year in increased profits, should also come under scrutiny.

Babcock is hoping to offset

the expected steep fall in profits from the power station business by some recovery in the contribution from mining equipment, following rationalization. Assuming profits of £40 million in the current year, the shares are trading on 10 times earnings.

At Lucas, the second half will benefit from the pension fund holiday, interest received on the £89 million rights issue of last year and continued growth of the aerospace supplies business. On that basis, profits of £100 million or so are possible, suggesting that the multiple is only slightly higher than Babcock's.

Of the two companies, Babcock offers the more excitement as it would gain substantially if the Sizewell power station is given the go-ahead.

BAT
The market was well primed for a decline in BAT's profits. In the event the results were a pleasant surprise, being better than the board's expectations at the half-year stage.

The 17 per cent decline in pretax profits to £1.168 million was mainly due to a weak dollar. At constant exchange rates, the decrease would have been 3 per cent.

Tobacco, which still accounts for more than 50 per cent of profits, had a particularly good year and increased its share of the business.

In a year when the total market for cigarettes grew by only 1 per cent, BAT's sales volume rose by 4 per cent. In Brazil, the group's biggest market, volume rose by 17 per cent enabling it to raise its market share to 81 per cent.

The need to diversify away from tobacco despite its un-

questioned profitability has long been clear.

The group's strategy is clear. It will concentrate on four core businesses which are positioned for strong growth. Tobacco, as a mature business, will grow less strongly than pulp and paper, financial services and retailing.

Further development of financial services will begin with development of Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, in particular exploiting the opportunities provided by portable pensions. But greater geographical spread is needed, and a major American acquisition at the retail end of the business with good distribution is likely.

In retail, there is still a long way to go, especially in the US. Here, the group is poised to sell a group of its stores in segments of the market where growth prospects are limited. A provision for losses on the sale of these department stores of £125 million has been made against this year's profit. It is expected that the sale will be complete by June.

By contrast, the paper division is doing exceptionally well, proving that BAT management can move into a new area of operation and make a success of it.

The management is also aware of the need to reward the shareholders, and the dividend was increased by 17.5 per cent despite the reduced profits giving a gross yield of 6.25 per cent at the current price of 400p.

The prospective price/earnings multiple is undemanding at between 7 and 8. Clear strategy and the cash flow to achieve it are a powerful combination and, if successful, the group should go a long way.

A B.A.T INDUSTRIES REPORT

Extracts from the preliminary results for the year ended 31 December 1985

Profit £1168m: Dividend up by 17½%

Group Results

	Year to December 1985	Year to December 1984
Pre-tax profit	£1168m	£1405m
Attributable to B.A.T Industries	£674m	£784m
Dividend per share	12.10p	10.30p
£1=£1.446 at 31.12.85 (£1.159 at 31.12.84).		

Group pre-tax profits in 1985 totalled £1168 million. This 17 per cent decline — as reported in sterling — owed much to the weakness of the US dollar, which sharply reduced profits when translated into sterling at year-end rates. Operating profits were 12 per cent lower at £1288 million, and attributable earnings were 14 per cent down at £674 million.

The year in fact saw growth and good performance in most of the Group's businesses. Tobacco and paper had a particularly strong year, as did life and pensions business and UK retailing. There were however unsatisfactory performances in some parts of US retailing and unexpectedly high claims experience in UK general insurance.

Nevertheless total operating profit in local currency terms showed a further one per cent improvement and would have reached £1485 million had exchange rates remained constant during the year. After a higher net interest charge, pre-tax profits would have shown a decrease of 3 per cent to £1361 million. The Group remains one of the UK's leading and most profitable businesses.

All comparisons are affected by further changes in Group structure. Allied Dunbar was acquired. Soporcel became an associate, and Mardon Packaging was sold. It is a striking testimony to the Group's financial strength and strong cash flow that the gross debt/equity ratio came down to 50 per cent, having risen to 64 per cent in early 1985 following the purchase of Allied Dunbar.

Taking the increase in Group results reported over the two years, 1984 and 1985, pre-tax profits are up by 19 per cent and earnings per share by 22 per cent.

Tobacco experienced a buoyant year. Group cigarette volume rose by 4 per cent, with improved market share in Brazil and the US. In local currencies Group trading profit from tobacco increased by 8 per cent.

Paper also had a strong year, with higher sales of carbonless copying paper from both Wiggins Teape and Appleton. With help from lower pulp prices profits grew by 19 per cent in local currencies.

Retailing had a mixed year, with another sparkling performance from Argos and good results in

difficult circumstances from Marshall Field's, Saks Fifth Avenue and Ivey's. But most of our other US stores performed inadequately, and it has been decided to concentrate our efforts on stores which offer growth potential and to dispose of the others, which in aggregate made a substantial loss.

Financial services now includes Allied Dunbar as well as Eagle Star, and both achieved substantial growth in life and pensions income. Eagle Star's general business suffered from an unexpectedly high claims experience but premium rates are now at a more satisfactory level.

Associated companies had an excellent year in local currencies. Imasco achieved further growth despite competitive pressures in Canadian tobacco and US drug stores. In the light of the year's positive features the Board will be recommending to shareholders a final dividend of 7.35p, making a total for the year of 12.10p, an increase of 17.5 per cent over the previous year, and an 85 per cent growth in excess of UK inflation over the past five years.

PROSPECTS for 1986 are for further growth at operating profit level. Factors outside our control include exchange rates and greatly reduced investment income from Brazil. But we expect an increase in attributable profits.

PATRICK SHEEHY, Chairman

STANDARD CHARTERED PLC
1985 RESULTS

The Directors announce the results of Standard Chartered Group for 1985, as follows:

	1985	1984
£ million	£ million	£ million
Trading profit	205.4	157.5
Company and subsidiaries	62.5	82.1
Share of associated companies	267.9	239.6
Profit before taxation	267.9	239.6
Taxation:		
United Kingdom	41.4	33.5
Overseas	60.9	65.3
Share of associated companies	23.3	32.0
	125.6	130.8
Minority interests	142.3	108.8
	9.6	8.7
Profit before extraordinary items	132.7	100.1
Extraordinary items	15.7	(26.7)
Profit attributable to members of the Company	148.4	73.4
Dividends: Interim	16.3	14.8
Final	31.1	29.5
Profit retained	101.0	29.1
Earnings per share	85.3p	64.4p

DIVIDEND: The Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on 8th May, 1986, a final dividend of 20.0 pence per share, making a total distribution for 1985 of 30.5 pence per share. The final dividend will be paid on 16th May, 1986, to shareholders on the Register on 11th April, 1986.

Standard Chartered

NEW INTEREST RATE

House Mortgage Rate
Midland Bank announces that, with effect from Tuesday 1st April 1986 its House Mortgage Rate reduces by 0.75% to 12.25% per annum.
APR 12.8%.

Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Full financial statements will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report. The results are being posted to shareholders. Copies are available from B.A.T Industries (NY), 445 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

THE SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

109 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow. G2 5HN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 103rd Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society will be held in the Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow on Wednesday 23rd April, 1986 at 12.15pm, to approve the Accounts Balance Sheet and Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to re-elect Directors and to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

Prints of the Society's Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet and Directors' Report can be obtained by Members at the Head Office of the Society or at any of its Branch Offices.

A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote instead of him. Proxies must be lodged at the Head Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

The attention of Members wishing to attend is drawn to Regulations 5, 23 and 24 of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society Act 1952.

By Order of the Board,
C. G. Kirkwood Secretary

Hearn and Leavers to set up agency

By Judith Huntley

G L Hearn & Partners is taking over Leavers and setting up a new firm, Hearn Leavers, to concentrate on commercial estate agency work. The commercial agency part of G L Hearn & Partners will be injected into the new firm. The existing practice will remain separate and will deal with professional work.

Hearn Leavers is to be wholly owned by the partners of G L Hearn. But Leavers' partners, while being part of the new firm, will not have any equity. Neither side will give the price paid to set up Hearn Leavers, but it is related to Leavers' profits.

Mr Eric Davies, a partner of G L Hearn said: "We were approached by Leavers as there was common ground between the two. Leavers wanted more professional back-up and G L Hearn needed to expand from its root bound Mount Street operation."

"You need to be of a certain size in agency to cope with the level of demand. And we wanted to distance our professional work, for which we have an established reputation, from the more hectic marketplace of Hearn Leavers. We have no intention of going public."

The pressure to develop large shopping centres to accommodate the retail revolution shows no signs of abating. A plethora of proposals now exist for out-of-town, edge of town or even town centre schemes, bringing the issue of planning controls into the limelight.

The decision by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, to allow the Carroll Group to build a £45 million, 450,000 sq ft leisure and retail development close to the M1 at Hatfield in Hertfordshire, against the advice of his own inspector, is a signpost to the future of shopping development in Britain.

Mr Baker's decision allows a scheme to go ahead near Welwyn Garden City's town centre shopping centre, itself the subject of a large redevelopment proposal. Mr Baker said: "I am not convinced from the evidence that this development would cause such serious harm to any nearby town centre as to undermine the viability and vitality of that centre as a whole."

To reinforce that view Mr Baker has put a ban on a large food superstore in the Carroll Group's Park Plaza scheme. And the largest retail unit in the development is limited to 80,000 sq ft.

Retail plans out of control



This model, above, illustrates a £20 million, 145,000 sq ft shop and office scheme which is to be developed by the Crown Estate Commissioners in London's Regent Street. The existing listed facade of 172-182 Regent Street will be retained with 64,500 sq ft of shops built behind it with offices above. There will be a shopping mall on the ground floor linked to a food court on the first floor. There will be eight kiosks offering a variety of food to 500 diners. These will be let on short-term leases based on turnover rents. Provision will be for future links to Hamleys, the toy shop. The letting agent is Drivers Jonas.

Overall, there will be 200,000 sq ft of retailing, 100,000 sq ft of offices, a 150,000 sq ft leisure complex, an hotel and a garden centre. The financial details of the development are a mystery. Mr Baker's decision to allow this scheme to go ahead must be taken against his refusal to allow the Penman Group to develop Centre 21, an out-of-town shopping centre near Leicester.

In that case its impact on existing shopping seems to

have been behind the refusal. But Centre 21 has had a long and painful planning history compared with the 18 months of waiting at Hatfield.

The restrictions imposed on the Carroll Group's development may lessen the impact at the Welwyn Garden City station being promoted by Slough Estates and the British Rail Property Board. They have had little time to assess the impact of the Secretary of State's decision on their plans.

There may be a modification of the existing £20 million scheme which includes 150,000 sq ft of retailing anchored by two large stores. Its commercial viability in the light of a rival, some would argue complementary, scheme just up the road, will have to be reconsidered.

Mr Roger Carey, the development director of Slough Estates said: "We had expected the decision to go the other way but we are certain we can create a viable scheme at the station site. The scheme may change but we are still there and we have every intention doing something worth while for the town. But we cannot go along with the view that it is complementary to the Carroll Group scheme. It would be quite extraordinary to say that."

The battle to build an out-of-town shopping centre near Bristol has yet to be resolved. The Prudential, through its

Prudential Portfolio Managers subsidiary, unveiled its plans jointly with Marks and Spencer, for its 28-acre site at Cribbs Causeway.

These include 500,000 sq ft of retailing, a 10-screen cinema and various leisure activities and restaurants. The scheme has yet to obtain planning permission. But both the Prudential, which has £100 million invested in property in its new scheme's catchment area, and M & S say they are committed to town centre shopping.

The situation at Cribbs Causeway is complicated by the fact that a local developer, Mr Jack Bayliss, owns a 60-acre site which adjoins the Prudential's. Mr Bayliss has plans for a large out-of-town development which rivals that proposed by the insurance company.

It is not yet clear whether the Secretary of State will call in the two schemes or whether some informal advice will be offered to the local authorities concerned.

And that raises interesting questions about the future of Broadmead, the town centre shopping development in the middle of Bristol. The Ladbroke Group has plans to upgrade Broadmead and restore its competitiveness as a prime retail location.

But it may have second thoughts if either at both the Cribbs Causeway proposals receive planning consent.

Freehold office sale yields 4%

Smith McEck and Jones Lang Wootton have sold a 12,500 sq ft office building in the City of London at 35-39 Moorgate for a yield of 4 per cent. The freehold offices with ground floor banking hall have been sold by a family trust to the Bristol and West Building Society for £11.5 million, equating to £40 a sq ft. Ernest Owen and Williams acted for the building society.

Evans of Leeds, the Yorkshire property group which raised a £12 million debenture issue last year has spent £5.5 million on new property investments which should help any re-rating of the company. The group is trying to switch its portfolio away from the industrial sector which accounted for about half its properties to retail and offices.

The office properties include the 40,000 sq ft United House in York let at rents approaching £5 a sq ft; Provincial House, Leeds bought from the British Airways Pension Fund and Waterloo House, a 15,000 sq ft building in Leeds.

Developments Commercial and Industrial, the Scottish property company, is to develop 180,000 sq ft of offices in Glasgow. The new scheme, to be called Northgate, will be built to a high specification, incorporating the latest electronic gadgetry. It follows on the letting of the company's 80,000 sq ft Westgate to British Telecom at a rent of £8 a sq ft discounted to £7.50 a sq ft for the single occupier.

Chesterfield Properties has let 34,000 sq ft of offices in its 130,000 sq ft New City Court development close to London Bridge on the south side of the Thames to Lloyds Bank at over £18.25 a sq ft. The joint developers Chesterfield and Lovell Developments, say half the 95,000 sq ft St Thomas House is also under offer. The letting agents are Herring Son & Daw and Edward Erdman.

Standard Commercial Property Securities, the property development subsidiary of B&Q, has sold its 100,000 sq ft high technology scheme, Great Eastern Enterprise in London's Docklands, for just over £5 million.

The 200-year leasehold investment has been sold to a private investor taking advantage of the 100 per cent capital allowances available in the Isle of Dogs enterprise zone.

Standard Properties is building a similar scheme in West India Dock and it will also develop a 60,000 sq ft office project also in Docklands. Grant & Partners acted for the developer.

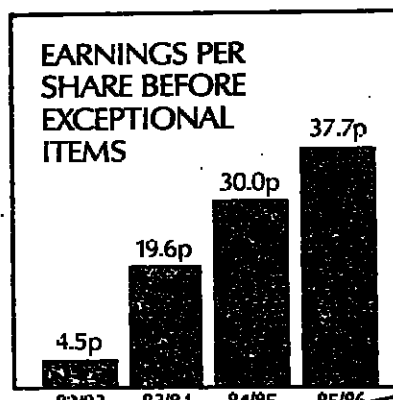
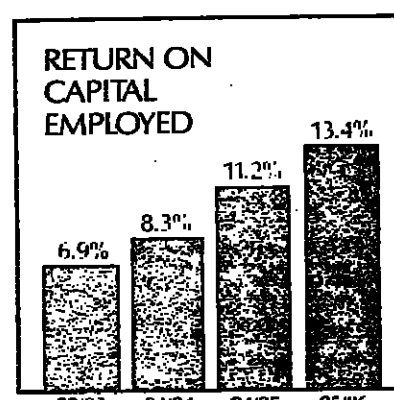
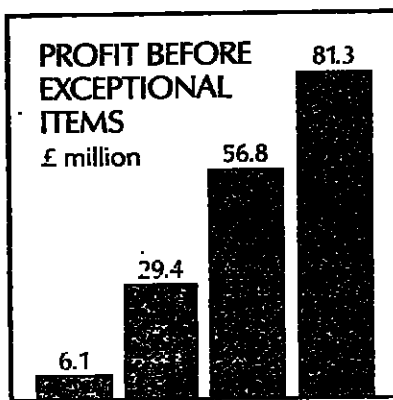
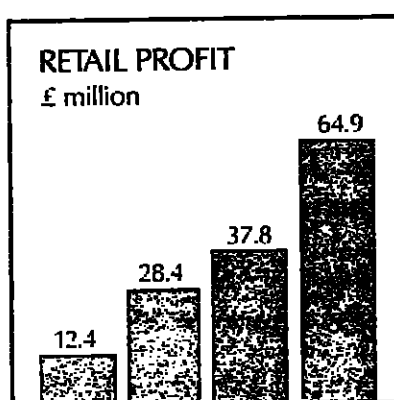
BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adam & Company	11½%
BCCI	11½%
City of London	11½%
Consolidated Credit	12½%
Continental Trust	11½%
Co-operative Bank	13½%
C. Hoare & Co	11½%
Lloyds Bank	11½%
Nat Westminster	11½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11½%
TSB	11½%
Citibank NA	11½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS PLC

Rise in retail profit signals strong Group performance



PRELIMINARY RESULTS
for the financial year ended 1 February 1986

	1985 (52 weeks)	1986 (53 weeks)
Turnover	1757.0	1661.1
Retail Profit B&Q	34.2	14.9
Comet	13.7	(5.1)
Woolworth	17.6	(0.6)
Other	(0.9)	37.8
Retail Profit	64.9	48.5
Property income	45.1	(29.5)
Net interest payable	(28.7)	56.8
Profit before exceptional items	81.3	49.0
Exceptional items	81.3	105.8
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(16.2)	(22.1)
Taxation	65.1	8.7
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	(29.1)	2.1
Extraordinary items	36.0	85.8
Profit for the financial year	37.7p	53.7p
Earnings per share	37.7p	30.0p
Dividend per share	10.0p	7.75p

Note: These results do not constitute 'full accounts' within the meaning of the Companies Act 1985.

- * Retail profits up 72%
- * Group profits before exceptional items and tax up 43%
- * Major turnaround at F.W. Woolworth - to be followed by further focussing on established strengths
- * B&Q profit up 20%. Expansion progressing to plan
- * Comet strategic review completed - investment in new stores proceeding
- * Property portfolio appreciating satisfactorily - substantial development programme moving ahead

WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders at the beginning of May. Non-shareholders who would like a copy should write to Nigel Whitaker, Woolworth Holdings plc, North West House, 119 Marble Lane, London NW1 5PX.

£81m Standard Chartered deal

The Standard Chartered bank group is to increase its stake in the Mocatta Group to 80 per cent for \$118 million (£81 million) in cash. The principal companies involved are Mocatta and Goldsmid and Mocatta Commercial in London, Mocatta Metals in New York and Mocatta Hong Kong.

The combined results of the Mocatta companies for the year to last November 30 showed a profit after tax of \$33.6 million and an extraordinary provision of \$6.6 million relating to the tin crisis, giving a net profit of \$27 million.

In 1985, an 80 per cent shareholding would have provided Standard Chartered with an additional \$12.5 million of profits after tax. At November 30, the additional tangible assets being acquired were \$108 million.

● **YOUNG HOLDINGS:** Half-year to Jan 31, 1986, compared with eight months last time, interim dividend 1.2p (1.05p), payable on May 23. Turnover \$6.23 million (£4.64 million). Pretax profit \$289,579 (£313,036). Earnings per share 6.86p (6.62p).

● **GIBBS AND DANDY:** Dividend for 1985 1.8p (1.575p). Turnover \$18.28 million (£17.1 million). Pretax profit \$201,000 (£408,000). Earnings per share 5.3p (5p) and after adjustment for overprovision for corporation tax in earlier years 3.7p (3.5p).

● **FORWARD TECHNOLOGY:** Dividend for 1985 0.5p, payable on May 30. Last dividend was for 1981. Turnover

\$24.76 million (£22.01 million). Pretax profit £1.01 million (£722,000). Earnings per share 2.5p (1.5p) before extraordinary items.

● **BRIDON:** Total dividend for 1985 5p (4p). Turnover £208.7 million (£187.7 million); share of related companies' turnover £125.8 million (£124.9 million).

Trade indemnity, the London-based credit insurance company, is paying a final dividend of 5p for 1985, making a total of 9.75p — an increase of 15.54 per cent.

It also plans a two-for-one scrip issue. Premiums written last year totalled \$65.5 million, against \$57.67 million. The profit on the 1985 underwriting account jumped to \$5.07 million, with 1982's £1.16 million. Franked investment income rose to \$799,502 (£674,994).

Pretax profit £16.7 million (£14.5 million). Earnings per share (before extraordinary items) 20.4p (15.12p).

● **STAG FURNITURE:** Total dividend for 1985 5.5p (2.75p). Turnover £30.37 million (£34.77 million). Pretax profit £1.35 million (£607,000). Although conditions in the first quarter of the current year have not been easy, the group has made a good start to 1986.

● **ADJORA:** Results for 1985. Final dividend of 0.65p per ordinary share, bringing the total for the former preferred ordinary shareholders to 1.4p a share. Shareholders who have held ordinary shares throughout the year will receive a total of 0.95p. Sales £107.58 million (£104.76 million). Pretax profit £9.08 million (£6.58 million).

Earnings per share, net basis, 6.86p (6.83p) and net distribution basis, 7.47p (4.2p).

● **KEEP TRUST:** Dividend 4.5p (3.75p) for 1985. Turnover — motor, £58.99 million (£52.41 million), engineering — £6.99 million (£6.48 million). Pretax profit £2.18 million (£1.71 million). Earnings per share 21.5p (16p).

● **WOLSTENHOLME RINK:** Total dividend for 1985 7.75p (same). Turnover £23.64 million (£21.51 million). Pretax profit £2.15 million (£1.68 million). Basic earnings per share 9.5p (25.0p).

● **METAL BOX:** The company and Carnaud SA have restructured their shareholdings in Europe. Metal Box is to transfer to Carnaud its 9.3 per cent interest in Carnaud Emballage and its 12 per cent stake in Eurochem Carnaud in exchange for Carnaud's 40 per cent interest in Metal Box Europe. As part of the transfer, Carnaud will pay Metal Box £45 million (£43 million).

● **DRYANT HOLDINGS:** Half-year to Nov 30, 1985. Interim dividend 1.2p (1.1p). Turnover £77.1 million (£65 million). Pretax profit £6.12 million (£5.61 million). Earnings per share 4.7p (3.8p).

● **CHART FOLKS LYNCH:** Dividend for 1985 2.675p. Turnover £2.28 million. Pretax profit £233,991. Earnings per share 5.87p.

More than doubled profits, a higher dividend and a scrip issue are reported for 1985 by Bernard Matthews, the turkey producer and meat processor, based at Norwich. Pretax profits climbed from £5.08 million to £12.89 million — the best ever — on turnover up from £97.58 million to £139.84 million. The final dividend is going up from 4p to 7.25p, lifting the total from 6.5p to 11p. A three-for-one scrip issue is proposed.

● **JAYPLANT:** Half-year to Nov 30, 1985. No interim dividend. Turnover £468,000 (£755,000). Profit before tax £26,000 (£66,000). Earnings per share 0.508p (1.13p).

● **ESTATES AND GENERAL INVESTMENTS:** Total dividend for 1985 2.5p (2.3p). Turnover £57.1 million (£3.97 million). Pretax profit £1.4 million (£1.26 million). Earnings per share 6.6p (4.3p).

● **PRESSAC HOLDINGS:** Interim dividend 0.7p (same), payable on May 21 for the six months to Jan 31, 1986. Turnover £10.64 million (£8.89 million). Pretax profit £620,000 (£411,000). Earnings per share 4.25p (2.52p).

● **CLIFFORD'S DAIRIES:** Total dividend for 1985 7.2p (6.4p). Turnover £84.58 million (£72.49 million). Pretax profit £3.85 million (£3.25 million). Earnings per share 18.05p (13.29p).

● **EBC GROUP:** Results for 1985. Total dividend 7.15p (5.6p) and one-for-four scrip issue. Turnover £56.17 million (£44.29 million). Pretax profit £1.12 million (£382,000). Earnings per share 18.8p (6.7p).

● **TELFOS HOLDINGS:** Total dividend for 1985 2.78p (2.16p adjusted). Turnover £9.46 million (£8.58 million). Pretax profit £1.03 million (£714,000). Earnings per share (fully diluted) 8.1p (6.6p).

● **SUNBEAM WOLSEY:** Total dividend for 1985 unchanged at 4p a share. Turnover £32.15 million (trish £28.09 million). Pretax profit £1.33 million (trish £1.2 million). Earnings per share 12.1p (11.8p).

● **ARNCLIFFE HOLDINGS:** Dividend 0.1p (same) for the year to Oct 31, 1985. Turnover £5.39 million (£5.54 million). Pretax loss £275,583 (loss £287,022). Loss per share 5.6p (trish 6.1p) (6.6p).

● **A B ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS:** Interim dividend 2p (same) for the half-year to Dec 31, 1985. Sales £70.23 million (£59.91 million). Pretax profit £3.03 million (£3.41 million). Earnings per share, basic 9.6p (11.7p) and fully diluted, 9.5p (11.3p).

● **UTRAMPTON, ISLE OF WIGHT AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET:** Total dividend for 1985 16p (14p). Turnover £5.48 million (£9.33 million). Pretax profit £1.28 million (£1.89 million). Earnings per share 29.57p (38.52p).

● **GOAL PETROLEUM:** Dividend for 1985 16p (14p). Turnover £5.48 million (£9.33 million). Pretax profit £1.06 million (£4.58 million). Earnings per share 2.45p (8.41p).

● **MANSON FINANCE:** Interim dividend 0.75p (0.52p), payable on May 19. Pretax profit for the half-year to Dec 31, 1985, £676,000 (£644,000). Earnings per share 1.4p (1.2p).

● **LINNEAD:** Total dividend for 1985 2.5p (1.5p). Turnover £15.13 million (£13.59 million). Pretax profit £722,000 (£71,000). Basic earnings per share (adjusted) 12.53p (0.65p).

● **BRIDGE OIL:** In the half-year to Dec 31, 1985, pretax profits jumped by 225 per cent to £42.59 million (£20.54 million). Net profits were up by 173 per cent at £16.69 million.

● **AMERICAN TRUST:** Total dividend for the year to Jan 31, 1986, 3.1p (2.9p). Pretax profit £6.97 million (£7.36 million). Earnings per share 3.90p (3.98p).

● **TACE:** Mr J H Mackenzie, the chairman, told the annual meeting that group performance supports the board's expectation of a material increase in profits.

● **WILLIS GROUP:** Total dividend for 1985 cut from 8p to 6p, but should budgets be substantially achieved in 1986, the board intends to restore the dividend. Turnover £134.39 million (£136.2 million). Pretax profit £532,000 (£286,000).

TIDG TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

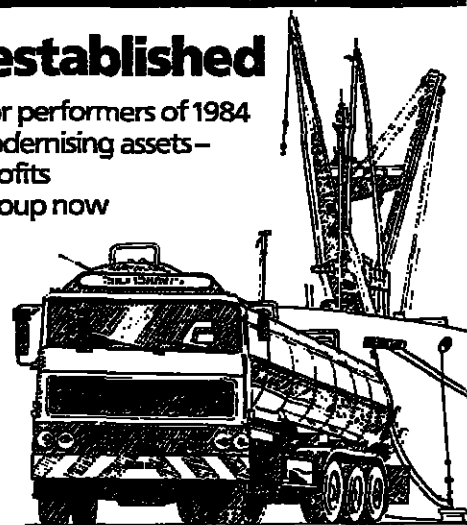
Clear pattern of growth now established

Increasing economic activity, a turnaround by some of the poor performers of 1984 and the work of earlier years reorganising companies and modernising assets — all these contributed to the uplift in profits in 1985. Pre-tax profits increased by 23% to £29.6 million. Transport Development Group now has 110 commercially independent subsidiaries operating not only throughout the United Kingdom but in Europe, North America and Australia.

Its principal activities are road haulage, storage and distribution.

Road haulage

In the United Kingdom there was a noticeable upsurge in demand for road haulage services in the second six months of 1985. Traffic volumes and margins improved. The rise in profitability was then significant. European profits were maintained but disappointing results from the trucking companies on the US west coast were partly off-set by strong increases in Australia.

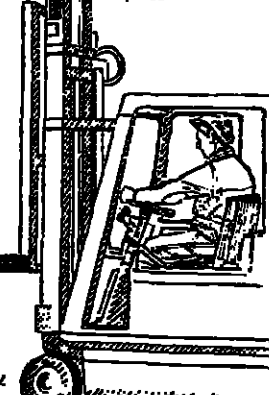


More than 4,500 vehicles move everything from an overnight package to a 1,500 tonne oil rig module.

Distribution

Important new contracts for storage and distribution were secured during the year. There are now many opportunities for growth in what is a rapidly changing and expanding market. A large temperature controlled central depot is under construction from which chilled products will be delivered to stores of a major UK retailer.

Group companies operate 8.5 million square feet of warehousing space.



Storage

Inland warehouses in the United Kingdom produced increased profits. A major warehouse complex at Slough came into full operation during the year, and is now handling 2,000 tonnes of confectionery every day. Bonded stores have been extended, and additional stores opened. There was a strong and sustained demand for cold storage which produced increased profits.

Cold storage accommodation totals more than 43 million cubic feet.

Other activities

Whilst transport, storage and distribution are the major activities, other companies provide related services — container services to and from Europe, export packing and forwarding, machinery installation and factory removals, plant hire, the servicing of exhibitions worldwide and the manufacture of steel reinforcement, wire and mesh. This spread and diversity contributes to the strength and stability of the Group as a whole.

Outlook for the future

A clear pattern of growth is now established. Growth is expected to continue and results for the first few weeks in the current year are encouraging. Profits are ahead of those for last year, and most trading companies are optimistic about the outcome for the year as a whole.

If you would like to know more about Transport Development Group complete the coupon below.

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BICC Improving trend continues

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Turnover	2,109	2,031
Profit before interest	111	102
Net interest payable	19	15
Profit before taxation	92	87
Taxation	36	39
Profit after taxation	56	48
Minority interests and preference dividends	17	12
Attributable profit before extraordinary items	39	36
Extraordinary items	(11)	(12)
Attributable profit	28	24
Earnings per share before extraordinary items	20.3p	18.5p
Dividends per share	11.0p	10.54p

1984 restated using average rates of exchange to translate performance of overseas companies.

The Chairman, Sir William Barlow, says:

The full extent of the improvement is obscured in the reported figures as the profit increase would have been about 20%, were it not for the appreciation of sterling against several currencies, in 1985.

I particularly draw attention to the continued improvement in attributable profit available to shareholders, which grew for the second successive year. This improvement was achieved after charging extraordinary items of £11 million after tax (£12 million in 1984) for closures.

We have tightened the control of cash and disposed of some assets which were not providing a return, thus reducing year-end cash usage. A final dividend of 7.5p per share is being recommended making 11p total for the year (last year 10.54p).

During the year, priority has been given to improving the performance and productivity of the existing businesses. We have pursued programmes to house our manufacturing operations either in new facilities or, where appropriate, in fully modernised older plants to provide working environments conducive to the achievement of the highest standards of quality and performance.

We believe in the fundamental value to shareholders of our well-established core

businesses, such as cables, other aspects of electrical engineering and electronics, and construction and civil engineering. These are the corner-stones of the BICC Group and given modern management and techniques will remain the principal source of future profits.

We have real confidence that these well-established businesses can prosper internationally and thrive with the right level of investment in modern technology, design, management and training. In contrast to some of the more volatile new technologies, our re-vitalised core businesses have the strong qualities of stability and reliability.

In preparing the ground for the future we have dealt rigorously with loss-making units and those which made inadequate profits. As a result, we have now turned round several businesses and disposed of others.

Confidence is increasing at all levels in the strength and ability of the Group to take on world competition with success.

Our new, younger top management team is committed to success. They seek new levels of achievement which will increase benefits to shareholders and employees.

Results are based on full group accounts with an unaudited audit report but not yet filed with the Registrar of Companies

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* PLESSEY HOTLINE * PLESSEY H

Plessey world first in optical fibre

By developing a system which enables up to 40 separate communications channels to be combined onto a single optical fibre, Plessey Research has achieved a world first.

Up till now, the number of simultaneous telephone conversations — or the video and data traffic equivalent — along one fibre has been limited to some 8,000.

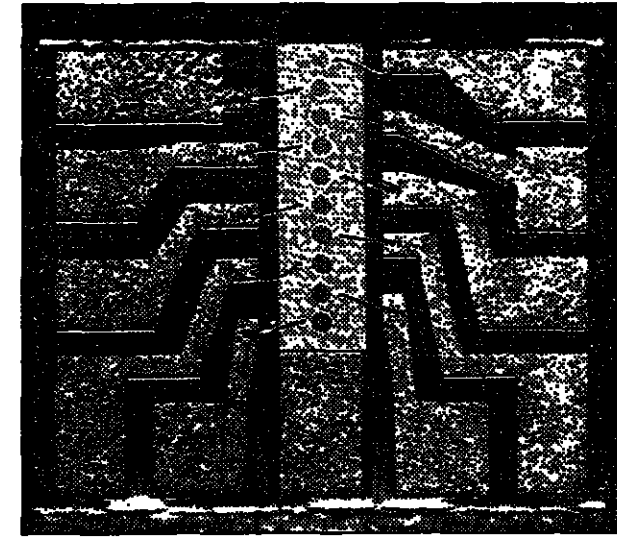
The new Plessey system has a theoretical capacity for 500,000 simultaneous calls, so its development has significant potential to increase the capacity of existing cable links and reduce the number of fibres needed.

The system is based on wavelength division multiplexing. This process employs different wavelengths or colours of light to carry different information for simultaneous transmission along one fibre no thicker than a human hair.

NO INTERFERENCE

The colours are combined at the transmitting end of the fibre and separated at the receiving end without significant interference occurring between them.

Although 40 separate light sources (LEDs) are required for the process, these need only be drawn from five differing variants in the infra-red part of the spectrum.



A circuit for wavelength division multiplexing

Each can be further subdivided into eight separate colours by a novel process known as spectrum splicing, which was developed by Plessey Research at Caswell in Northamptonshire.

The impact of this new technology is expected to have major importance for short and long distance communication systems, for specialist uses in local area networks and parallel computer links, and also for military applications such as aircraft flight control systems.

ISDX for Oxford

Oxford University has ordered a network of ten Plessey ISDX digital communication systems.

The systems, which incorporate DPNSS (Digital Private Network Signalling System) facilities, are expected to be operating in September 1986, in time for the 1986-87 academic year.

Among the departments to use the new network will be Engineering and Science, Botany, Zoology and Geodesy and Surveying. The Bodleian Library and various administrative offices will also be served.

The order — valued at over £1 million — was placed through British Telecom, who market the Plessey ISDX as the Merlin DX.

Plessey MRS for Oman

Plessey has won an order for the supply of advanced circuit switches to the Omani Ministry of Defence.

The contract — for the Plessey Multi Role System (MRS) — closely follows the announcement that the Greek Armed Forces have also chosen MRS, as the heart of the Hermes system for their secure military communications network.

MRS offers a highly flexible range of switches that provides the most efficient and versatile means of meeting communications requirements through to the 1990s.

Developed as a "third generation" system from a substantial Plessey research programme, MRS has already been chosen by Australia and New Zealand for their strategic communications networks.



Plessey MRS in action

With automatic distribution and message handling, full interface facilities, automatic system control and a foundation support system, it embodies the latest in switching technology.

MRS is designed for tactical or strategic systems, mobile or fixed. It incorporates experience gained in the development of the Parmigan system now operational with the British Army in Germany, for which Plessey was prime contractor.

The Omani order is an important stage in the modernisation of Omani military communications, and points the way to further Plessey sales in this highly competitive market.

PLESSEY

Technology is our business.

PLESSEY, the Plessey symbol and ISDX are trade marks of The Plessey Company plc.

APPOINTMENTS

GEC Reliance: Mr Owen Lamont has become sales director.
 Nestobell: Mr David Ingram has been made chief executive.
 News (UK): Mr Barry Male is now finance director.
 Rank: Mr Tomlinson has been made marketing director.
 Macdonald Martin Distilleries: Mr Anthony Barrett has become export sales director.
 International Petroleum Exchange: Mr Peter Wildblood has been made chief executive.
 Arundell (UK): Mr Robert Burns has been named director of finance and administration.
 Ash & Lacy: Mr Henry Spaldwell is to become deputy managing director. Mr Mike Cartwright and Mr John Prouse join the board.
 LFW Furness: Mr Brian Edgley is now managing director and Mr Nat Le Ross has joined the board.
 Marlborough Property Holdings: Mr S S Gillam is now on the board.
 Flexicon Systems: Mr Geoffrey Nithsdale has been made director and general manager.
 British Steel Corporation: Mr John Madden has become a director.
 Syndication International (1986): Mr Giles Neal is now managing director.
 Fiat Finance: Mr Graham Picken has joined the board.

MPs hit at government incompetence over tin

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

A Commons committee accused the Government yesterday of incompetence in its handling of the tin crisis.

In a hard-hitting final report on the crisis, the Select Committee on Trade and Industry called for a debate on the Government's refusal to answer its questions. It also recommended financial support for the badly affected Cornish tin mines.

The MPs said the International Tin Council, the body charged with overseeing the International Tin Agreement, appeared to be "totally out of control". But the Government failed to warn the market and ministers were not kept fully informed.

The report said: "Failure to persuade the chairman of the London Metal Exchange to transmit to ring dealers the warning from HMG that it could not underwrite uncovered commitments entered into by the buffer stock manager under the sixth, and possibly the seventh, agreement testified to a degree of incompetence which speaks for itself."

In a reply which the com-

mittee described as being worthy of the TV show *Yes, Minister*, Sir Brian Hayes, permanent secretary to the Department of Trade and Industry, said that the ITC had refused to supply information and "it was therefore decided not to abandon the effort but continue it with a somewhat lower profile in the hope that reason would triumph where more overt processes had unfortunately failed."

The report continued: "We regard it as unforgivable that such a warning was intended to be passed only to one category of persons exposed to risk in dealing with the BSM, and not the other categories, namely, tin producers in the UK and banks lending to the ITC."

The committee said the Cornish mines were threatened by the collapse of the ITC's price support operation, in which the Government had participated. Individual committee members favoured switching the £50 million the Government had offered to help rescue the tin market to sustain the tin mines through the present low prices.

UK steel output up 3.4%

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

World steel production last month rose marginally above the output for February 1985 with Britain showing a 3.4 per cent increase and France and Japan both reporting a downturn.

European Economic Community production totalled 10.7 million tonnes with Britain producing 1.2 million tonnes. The overall figure was 0.6 per cent higher than in the same month last year.

The figures, issued by the International Iron and Steel Institute, show that the United States produced 5.1 per cent more than in February last year, Japan 6.9 per cent less and France 10 per cent less.

The country in the industrialized nations category with the largest increase in output was Brazil, where output rose by 11.4 per cent. Denmark's specialist steels industry produced 38.5 per cent more, however.

Among the non-industrialized nations Nigeria showed the largest fall in production, down 87.5 per cent, and Argentina the largest rise, 43.8 per cent.

Law Report March 27 1986

Lord Chancellor agrees Bar fees timetable

Regina v Lord Chancellor, Ex parte Alexander

Before Lord Justice, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Taylor

[Proceedings March 26]

The proceedings by the Bar against the Lord Chancellor (The Times March 21, 22, 24) have been adjourned generally with an order for costs in favour of the Bar, on the Lord Chancellor's undertaking to the court to agree a timetable leading to his making his final decision on July 16.

The Lord Chief Justice congratulated the parties on his hope that the solution to a very unpleasant matter had been achieved.

Mr Phillips: "We are grateful to your Lordships for the further adjournment. Discussions between the two sides have now been concluded. The Lord Chancellor has agreed to submit to us a timetable leading to a decision."

"As your Lordships are aware, the Lord Chancellor had already made it clear that he would not be making any further submissions to the court."

"He has now agreed with his colleagues that it would be appropriate in all the circumstances for him to undertake to the court that he will not agree a timetable for discussions leading to his making his final decision on July 16."

The timetable was handed up to the court. The Lord Chief Justice asked about the April 1 proposed regulations containing the interim 5 per cent increase in fees.

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dispute to the Bar's satisfaction.

"We do respectfully submit that it would be appropriate to the costs incurred in this matter should be paid by the Lord Chancellor. The undertaking which has now been offered has never been offered before."

"There was no hint in the decision letter" - on which the Bar's application was made to the court for a declaration that the decision was illegal - "that there was room for further discussion on the Coopers & Lybrand report or on the introduction of further regulations later this year, or that the Lord Chancellor had any intention of making such further regulations."

"Nor was there any such suggestion in any of the correspondence prior to the commencement of these proceedings."

"Immediately after leave was granted" - by Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Macpherson on February 18 in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court - "to move the court for the order, the Lord Chancellor indicated that he intended that discussions should take place but without any commitment to a timetable leading to a decision."

"Thereafter, in order to remove the need to go further in the action, the Bar persisted in an attempt to obtain such a commitment, but without success."

"Your Lordships will recall that, on March 4 in response to a request from the applicant legal aid work" - and on the other factors relevant to his decision.

"He felt unable to give a commitment because his eventual decision would include implications for matters on which he had to consult others."

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Eagle Star

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS FOR 1985

The results for 1985 were as follows:-

	1985 £m	1984 £m
PREMIUM INCOME		
Fire, accident and motor	720.2	620.5
Marine, aviation and transport	43.5	64.6
Long term - annual premiums	231.4	237.2
- single premiums	224.1	174.8
	1,219.2	1,076.6
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		
Underwriting loss	(173.7)	(126.4)
Shareholders' long term profits	25.2	22.2
Investment return *	260.3	264.5
Profits of Grosvenor Investment Trust	4.6	2.8
Surplus before taxation	116.4	153.1
Taxation	(19.7)	(33.8)
Minority interests	(5.0)	(7.4)
Surplus before extraordinary items	90.7	111.9
Extraordinary items	79.3	(3.6)
Transfer to capital reserves	(72.6)	(49.1)
Balance available for appropriation	97.4	59.2
Dividends	(39.0)	(40.0)
Balance added to revenue reserves	58.4	19.2
Investment income	123.9	127.4
Investment expenses	(5.3)	(3.3)
Profits of Grosvenor Securities	29.1	25.4
Share of associated companies' profits	0.2	0.2
	147.9	149.7
Investment appreciation	135.5	112.1
Transfer to deferred investment gains	(23.1)	(7.3)
Total investment return	260.3	264.5

* The amount shown as investment return is made up as follows:-

Despite an underlying improvement in insurance rating levels during the year, the results for 1985 show a reduction in surplus before tax and minority interests to £116.4m (1984: £153.1m). However, the more realistic attitude towards rating now prevailing in the market should have a positive effect in future.

INVESTMENT RETURN. The total investment return was £260.3m (1984: £264.5m). This reflects a substantial growth in investment values and, after allowing for currency exchange rate fluctuations, the underlying growth rate in investment income was 9 per cent. The method used in the computation of these figures is unchanged from last year and excludes any increase in the value of the shareholders' interest in the life business, which is shown at a nominal value in the accounts.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS. General business premium income increased by 15 per cent to £763.7m.

The table set out below analyses the income and underwriting results for each major territory including an appropriate allowance for investment return (equivalent to that obtainable from risk-free investments) on the related insurance funds.

GENERAL BUSINESS INSURANCE RESULT				
Amounts in £m				
	Premium income	Underwriting result	Attributable investment return	1985 Overall result
United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland *	594.7	(137.2)	75.5	(61.7)
Australia	35.4	(3.5)	5.9	2.4
Belgium	32.0	(7.4)	5.7	(1.7)
South Africa	45.8	(1.1)	3.3	2.7
USA	23.4	(18.6)	1.9	(16.7)
Other territories	22.8	(5.9)	5.9	(4.5)
	763.7	(173.7)	98.7	(75.0)

* including reinsurance and worldwide marine and aviation.

In the United Kingdom there was an encouraging increase of 30 per cent in written premium income, spread over all the major classes. This written premium income, spread over all the major classes, shows improvement reflects importantly the substantial increases in levels of premiums which we have been able to obtain; but it will be readily understood that the benefit of this in terms of earned premiums will not emerge fully in the accounts until next year. In addition the hardening of the market created a situation in which we were able, with a growing expectation of profitable trading in coming years, to recover part of our market share which we had sacrificed in the unsatisfactory conditions of recent years.

The property account suffered as a result of higher than normal weather claims and consequently only showed a marginal improvement on 1984 with an overall loss (after attributable investment return) of £14m (1984: £16m). The overall loss on liability business of £17m (1984: £8m profit) is arrived at after a significant strengthening of claims provisions following higher than expected increases in court awarded settlements relating to old personal injury claims during the year. Motor business was again unprofitable, with an overall loss of £27m (1984: £8m) and this account suffered from significant increases both in claims frequency and in average settlement costs. The overall loss on the accident account was £5m (1984: £7m) and included in this figure is £3m (1984: £4m) for travel business losses.

The results for London market business showed an overall loss of £4m (1984: £5m). The results for proportional treaty business were almost unchanged but there has been a significant improvement in the home foreign and excess of loss accounts. It has been necessary however to make additional provisions in respect of asbestos related and environmental claims for earlier years.

The worldwide marine aviation and transport account resulted in a transfer from profit and loss account of £1.5m (1984: £3m). Profits were produced in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia but results in the United States and France were again extremely disappointing. Corrective action has been taken.

Despite an increase of 14 per cent in underlying currency terms, overseas premium income fell by 13 per cent in sterling terms. The results were overshadowed by the considerable underwriting losses in the United States. Although rating levels increased substantially in this territory, large additional provisions had to be made in respect of prior year claims and these accounted for approximately half of the underwriting loss.

LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS. Overall premium income increased by 11 per cent to £455.5m and the shareholders' gross life profits were £25.2m (1984: £22.2m), an increase of 14 per cent. These figures were affected by the reduction in the rate of corporation tax which has the effect of reducing the grossed up value of life profits. The net transfer released from the life fund showed an increase of 21 per cent.

In the United Kingdom new single premiums of £163m were 37 per cent ahead of the corresponding figures for 1984 but total new annual premiums amounted to £19.8m (1984: £24.3m), representing a reduction of 19 per cent. The first quarter of 1984 was the last period during which life assurance premium relief was available on new annual premium policies and so the figure for the first quarter of 1985 was inevitably much reduced. Over the remainder of the year however 1985 production was substantially up on 1984. These figures exclude the new business of Eagle Pension Funds, our managed pension funds subsidiary, for which new annual contributions of £28.9m were received in respect of pooled and segregated funds and contracts of investment management.

A significant event which took place during the year was the successful launch of the Rainbow Bond and the seven "Rainbow rated" unit trusts which generated much enthusiasm from brokers. In the nine weeks up to the year end £17.7m was invested in Rainbow Bonds and £1m in unit trusts.

Overseas life business development was very good. Overall, in sterling terms, new annual premiums increased by 19 per cent and single premiums by 49 per cent. Excellent as these figures are, they are derived from the even better results in terms of the underlying currencies achieved by the major overseas subsidiaries. Australian Eagle in particular had an outstanding year with new annual premiums almost doubled and single premiums nearly trebled in local currency.

GROSVENOR SECURITIES. As announced on 4th March the industrial businesses of Grosvenor Securities, excluding VG Instruments which is now a direct subsidiary of B.A.T. Industries, were sold to Wolsley Hughes p.Lc.

The above is a summary of the results for the year. The full report and accounts which contain an unqualified auditors' report will be published on 21st April 1986 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies within the prescribed period.

Eagle Star Holdings PLC, 1 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE
 (A member of the B.A.T. Industries Group)

Intentional hostile touching is sufficient to prove battery

Wilson v Pringle

Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Balcombe [Judgment given March 26]

An intention to injure was not essential to an action in battery; it was necessary to prove only an intentional hostile touching of the plaintiff by the defendant.

The Court of Appeal, allowing an appeal by the defendant, Ian Pringle (a minor by his father and guardian, Ian Gordon Gailey Pringle) against an order of Judge Wilson-Mellor, QC, who, sitting as a judge of the High Court on October 1, 1984, had ordered judgment to be entered for the plaintiff, Peter Wilson (a minor by his mother and next friend June Wilson), under Order 14, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, in an action for trespass to the person (battery), alleged to have been committed in 1980 when the defendant jumped on the plaintiff at school, as a result of which the plaintiff had sustained serious injury to his hip.

Mr James Wadsworth, QC and Mr Nicholas Davidson for the defendant; Mr Peter Weitzman, QC and Mr John Mason for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON, delivering the judgment of the court, having considered *Went v Carr* (1817) 103 133, *Tuberville v Savage* (1669) 1 Mod 31, *Cole v Turner* (1704) 6 Mod 309, *Williams v Jones* (1736) Cas 1 Hard 299, *Holmes v Mather* (1875) LR 10 QB 261, and *Stanley v Powell* (1891) 1 QB 661, said that it was neither possible nor desirable to ignore the distinction between torts of negligence (which had evolved from the action of trespass on the case) and torts of trespass properly so called.

The first distinction was that

in negligence any physical contact was normally (but not always) unintended or trespass to constitute a battery it had to be deliberate.

Not every intentional contact was tortious. Deliberate touching by way of self-defence or with consent, express or implied, or in innocence (for example congratulatory backslapping of a century-scoring batsman) was not actionable battery. An essential ingredient of trespass to the person was hostility.

The defendant, relying upon *Fowler v Lanning* ([1959] 1 QB 426, 439) and *Letang v Cooper* ([1965] 1 QB 232, 239), had contended that not only the touching but the infliction of injury had to be deliberate in order to constitute battery.

Lord Denning's judgment in *Letang*, with which Lord Justice Danckwerts had agreed, was widely phrased, but had been delivered in an action where the only contact had been unintentional and the court had not been concerned with the point now made by the defendant.

The plaintiff's submission, that it was the touch and not the injury which had to be intentional, was correct; it was the mere trespass by itself which was the offence.

What turned a friendly touching, which was not actionable, into an unintended one, which was? In *Collins v Wilcock* ([1984] 1 WLR 1172, 1177-8) Lord Justice Robert Goff had drawn the so-called defences to an action for trespass to the person under one umbrella of "a general exception embracing all physical contact which was generally acceptable in the ordinary conduct of daily life."

That rationalization explained and utilized the expressions of judicial opinion which appeared in the authori-

ties and was illustrative of the considerations which underlay an action for battery in trespass to constitute a battery it had to be deliberate.

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Date tax assessment is made

Honig and Others v Sarsfield (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Stocker [Judgment given March 24]

On applying the time limit provisions of the Taxes Management Act 1970, an income tax assessment was made on the date that it was entered by a tax inspector into the assessment books of his district; it was not the date of service of the notice of assessment.

The Court of Appeal, held in dismissing an appeal by the administrators of the estate of Mr Emanuel Honig, deceased, from the judgment of Mr Justice Peter Gibson (The Times November 6, 1984) upholding a determination of the special commissioners that a number of additional assessments to tax had been made within the time

limit laid down in section 40 of the 1970 Act.

Mr Maurice Honig, administrator, in person; Mr Michael Hart for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that Mr Emanuel Honig died on September 5, 1966. In February 1970 the inspector was given leave by the general commissioners to make additional income tax assessments on the administrators of Mr Honig's estate from 1961 to 1967.

To comply with the provisions of sections 34 and 40 of the 1970 Act those assessments had to be made on or before April 5, 1970. The inspector's books for 1970 contained the assessments and showed them as issued on March 16, 1970.

However the notices of assessment were not received by any one administrator until April 7, 1970. It was argued that the

assessments were thus out of time.

The question was when was an assessment "made"? By section 29(5) of the Act a "notice of any assessment to tax" had to be served on the person assessed.

That wording necessarily implied that there was a difference between a notice and an assessment: there could be no notice until there was an actual assessment. The two were quite distinct and different things.

The assessments were "made" when the inspector authorized them and signed the certificates in his books on March 16 - well within the statutory time limit. In the result the judge's conclusion was correct.

Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Stocker agreed. Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

March 27, 1986

There is intense recruitment activity in the City as the financial institutions prepare for the increased competition that deregulation — the Big Bang — will create this autumn.

All sectors — banks, building societies, insurance companies, security houses — have been forced to consider whether they have the people to "survive the heat of the kitchen".

Building societies, for example, are turning to banks to provide key financial specialists, while banks themselves are looking at building societies for scarce network and telecommunications specialists. At the same time we can expect to see an end to the "cradle-to-grave" career path and the beginning of a freer flow of executive talent.

We are witnessing change on two levels. On one hand, there is a response to the acute shortage of high-calibre financial and technical specialists who are crucial in all areas if institutions are to offer the range of services which new legislation will allow.

And as institutions take a fresh approach to marketing and strategic planning, there is evidence that

a new breed of chief executive is beginning to emerge.

The need for specialist banking people — not just fund managers, lending officers and money market traders but also telecommunications and networking specialists — has grown dramatically over the last five years. This has been caused by the ever-increasing representation of major overseas banks in the City, accelerated by financial organizations and their development of new products and services.

So the shortage of such key people is being exacerbated by the build-up to deregulation. For a start, the Financial Services Bill will allow building societies to undertake new operations — unsecured lending, money transmission, treasury and retail marketing of securities, for example.

Many societies have little, if any, expertise in these areas and have been looking outside their industry for the necessary skills — mainly to the retail, investment and commercial banks.

Deregulation and competition from all directions, including overseas, has also created intense pressure within all sectors to stay ahead in technology-led develop-

The Big Bang has intensified the search for financial expertise, says John Richards



ments, such as ATM networks and electronic funds transfer point-of-sale (EFTPOS). And as the need to exercise sound profit centre management becomes stronger, all institutions are requiring instantaneous telecommunications networks across the world.

Consequently, we are seeing a scramble for information systems, network and telecommunications experts. In particular, there is a shortage of people competent at planning and managing the systems, with experienced project managers, in short supply.

In the dealing room, technological advances in treasury management, accounting and control

systems have led to an increasing demand for financial managers with a knowledge of the latest in banking software packages, funds transfer systems and information reporting systems.

So far the building societies, not banks, have made much of the running in retail financial automation. An impressive number of societies now have counter-top terminals and telecommunication networks and can offer interest-bearing accounts through ATMS, giving them an immense advantage over the banks in attracting savings from personal customers.

In an attempt to catch up, some

banks are turning to building societies to find key networking specialists — creating a two-way traffic of skills.

There is also a need for people who understand how to market the new financial services and again a number of the larger building societies have started recruiting consultants, such as marketing Eftpos experts in the computer industry.

Changes are also happening at the top of the institutional hierarchy. Head-on competition for commercial business — not only within but also between sectors — requires high calibre strategic-thinking senior executives, capable of implementing and managing changes in direction.

A catchphrase has been coined to describe this new breed — the "intrapreneur". He or she is the innovative, even risk-taking person with sound commercial skills who can successfully take an organization into new markets.

Evidence of this can be found in the recent wave of redundancy programmes by banks and building societies to make room for the

younger, more aggressive executives. Some institutions, particularly the smaller ones who might not wish to afford a full-time "whizz kid", are retaining top corporate planning consultants on a part-time basis.

Some even predict the slow demise of the "home-grown" manager, with the banks, building societies, security houses and insurance firms contributing to, and hiring from, a common pool of senior executives.

This raises interesting questions about the future of professional divisions separating the institutions. For example, can a banking chief be brought in to head a building society without the societies' qualifications or professional status?

So what are the immediate implications for the institutions and their employees? Clearly, the financial executives will find themselves, for the next two years at least, in a sellers' market. Their employers, on the other hand, are faced with the challenge of attracting and holding skilled staff. In some areas, salaries and bonus packages will escalate as firms compete for scarce skills.

This boom in financial recruitment has been reflected by an increased volume of classified advertising and the growth in specialist employment agencies.

A number of the specialists and high-calibre managers will already be happily employed and well paid and unlikely to be registered with recruitment agencies or responding to job advertisements.

Executive search or head-hunting — because it can break down this inertia and convince both parties that a career move would be advantageous — is often going to be the only effective recruitment tactic. Indeed, the use of search in the financial sector — and the number of head-hunters specializing in financial appointments — is already on the increase.

Finding top calibre specialists and managers takes at least three months. The movement of people in preparation for deregulation has only just started.

If the institutions are going to be equipped in time for new opportunities and able to compete aggressively with other sectors and overseas then we have yet to see the real boom in recruitment.

John Richards is a consultant with Ian Ashworth & Associates

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Further particulars for either post are obtainable from the Principal. Applications with full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be sent to The Principal, RADA 62-64 Gower Street, London WC1E 6ED to arrive not later than Monday 7th April. Envelopes to be marked 'Confidential'.

SALES

National Gallery Publications is the commercial operation responsible for the gallery's expanding publishing programme of fine-art books and reproductions.

A sales executive is urgently required to promote sales through UK trade and direct markets. If you have a proven sales record and can demonstrate a genuine interest in the Publications' Market, please send your curriculum vitae and a covering letter to: The Publications Manager, National Gallery Publications, The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN.

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Based in Central London requires Accounts Clerk/Administration Officer. Duties include office accounting and budget planning reports, bookkeeping and administrative duties. Accounting experience essential.
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Salary to £25,000 + car

We are one of the leading international management consultancies; we are now looking for further first class consultants and analysts for our financial management practice in the UK and overseas.

For consultant positions, successful candidates will be qualified accountants aged 28 to 35, with an honours degree, who can demonstrate proven achievement in industry or commerce.

Experience must include responsibility for systems development as well as line management in the finance function. Personal qualities will include the ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing.

For analyst positions we are interested in hearing from less experienced people over 26 who otherwise meet the profile indicated above.

We offer outstanding opportunities to broaden your experience in a wide

variety of industries and to work with stimulating colleagues from a number of disciplines. There are excellent opportunities for promotion within Peat Marwick for those who wish to pursue a career in consultancy. Of particular interest to us at the moment are people with experience of the manufacturing, retail, distribution and oil industries, or of treasury management.

If you are interested in joining our London office and working with us in the UK or overseas, please write in confidence, enclosing a brief summary of your qualifications and experience, and quoting reference A/MA/86, to Mike Coney at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD.

PEAT MARWICK

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Initial Earnings
£18,000+

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As a newly qualified Accountant you want to guide the business planning and related information systems decisions of major organisations.

You want the prospect of total involvement from strategic business and information planning studies to systems design and installation. Management Information Consultancy is the one area that really can offer you the variety, breadth of experience and immediate rewards.

We want to meet top graduate Accountants—young professionals who are eager to learn how to harness the new computer based technology. People who enjoy problem solving and using their creative and logical abilities to the full. If you feel the need to develop these qualities in your future career then you may be the right person for information systems consultancy. Arthur Andersen & Co., Management Consultants have always specialised in the information technology business to provide our clients with a competitive advantage. We have concentrated on providing a high quality professional service that requires the study of financial, marketing, operations, personnel and other key functions with critical objectivity coupled with the application of advanced information technology.

As a result, our list of clients has grown impressively. Today, it spans a broad range of blue-chip companies in every major industry sector, as well as most government departments and many health & local authorities. Our work requires a unique combination of business, technical

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Our commitment to your development will be second to none and involves integrating formal training with practical experience. In fact, during the next five years you will receive over 800 hours of formal training and education, mostly conducted at our centres in Chicago and Geneva. There you will meet your counterparts from 120 offices in 40 countries, and participate in a continuous international exchange of ideas and experiences within the framework of a professional organisation which has over 7,000 consultants world-wide.

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Management Consultants

Personnel Officer Capital Markets

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£Neg. + Excellent Benefits

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The rapid expansion of this Investment Banking subsidiary of Germany's largest international bank, Deutsche Bank AG, has obliged us to create the post of Personnel Officer. You will work closely with the Head of Personnel and deputise in his absence.

This is not a job for an 'easy-riders, clock-watcher', but if you have an extrovert personality, a creative and positive approach to Personnel matters and are able to sustain pace and accuracy despite constant pressure, then you might 'fit the bill'.

You must have at least 3 years' experience in a broad-ranging Personnel function (whilst Banking experience and a knowledge of German are helpful, they are not essential).

The excellent benefits package and competitive salary will serve to reflect the importance we attach to this role.

Written applications only please, should be sent in confidence to:

Richard Austin-Cooper,
Head of Personnel,
Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Limited,
150 Leadenhall Street,
London EC3V 4RL.

Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Limited

MANAGER £19,000
Midlands

An international practice involved in staying ahead of technological and commercial developments has an opportunity for the young ACA to hold a senior consultancy role within company based premises. As one of the 'Big 4', the firm can offer breadth of experience and enhanced career prospects open to those whose talents complement such responsibility.

Coventry Office

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT £16,000
+ Company Car Midlands

A major qualified professional is required by a rapidly expanding manufacturing/construction company. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a history of achievement and advancement experience within the construction industry. The Chief Accountant will be expected to lead and implement the company's current expansion plans which are of prime importance. Success will bring its own rewards to the right candidate.

Edlington Office

ELECTRONIC £14,000 + Car
Lincolnshire

An opportunity to join the automation division of the world leading manufacturer. The post encompasses the design of control systems for industrial machinery systems and the associated software, together with the supervision, monitoring and control of site sub-contracting and commissioning. A minimum qualification of HND is required coupled with relevant control systems experience.

Nottingham Office

ACCOUNTS MANAGER £16,000
+ Car Midlands

Experience of audit and business administration for medium sized client companies developed within a large practice is the background from which the successful candidate must come. The role also encompasses various ancillary disciplines such as procurement and an overall comprehension of financial and administrative matters.

Coventry Office

PROJECT ENGINEER £15,000
North Midlands

Manufacturing company of international repute seeks degree level engineer to join its product design and development team. Responsible for all stages from concept to completion. Apart from engineering skills, the post also encompasses various ancillary disciplines such as procurement and an overall comprehension of financial and administrative matters.

Nottingham Office

COST ACCOUNTANT £15,000
Staffordshire

This market leading manufacturing company seek a young qualified ACA with experience of the cost accounting system. The successful candidate will be expected to lead and implement the company's current expansion plans which are of prime importance. Success will bring its own rewards to the right candidate.

Edlington Office

The above positions have outstanding career prospects and carry excellent benefits. For Further information applicants M/F should telephone or send a comprehensive c.v. to the respective regional office.

**CASTLE
RECRUITMENT**

ENGINEERING MANAGER

Barclays Bank PLC require a Chartered Engineer to take up the post of Engineering Manager in its Property Services Department—South Regional Office, based in Twyford.

The successful applicant will be a corporate member of one of the major engineering institutions. Ideally, they will have served an engineering apprenticeship followed by design experience, operation and maintenance of building engineering services coupled with Managerial expertise.

The duties will include conceptual design of the engineering content of major projects and detail design of smaller ones, the vetting of engineering designs and drawings prepared by others, briefing of consultants, engineering project management and control of subordinate staff engaged in the operation and maintenance of engineering services in a group of buildings for which the job holder will hold overall responsibility.

Salary will commence at £16,052 per annum and is subject to annual review. Additionally, an annual bonus is payable and there is a wide range of benefits including non-contributory pension scheme, profit sharing and a special housing loan facilities scheme, after a qualifying period.

Application, giving details of qualifications and experience, should be made to:

Mr P W Cooper
Head of Personnel and
Administration
Property Services Department
Barclays Bank PLC
Britannia House
16/17 Old Bailey
LONDON EC4M 7DN

BARCLAYS

ST. JOHN'S WINCHESTER CHARITY

Applications are invited for the position of Secretary to this ancient almshouse charity. The function of the Secretary is the general management of the charity. The successful candidate will be an experienced administrator with an interest in the welfare of the elderly and preferably with a professional qualification.

Salary in the region of £19,000 p.a. according to experience. There is a non-contributory pension scheme.

Please write before 11th April 1986 for job description and application form to:

The Secretary,
St. John's Winchester Charity,
1 St. John's North,
The Broadway,
Winchester,
Hampshire, SO23 9BD.

Organiser of Group Holidays

For Children and Young People
A national model charity, which organises group holidays for 800 disabled children and young people every year, staffed by volunteers, seeks an organiser who is between 28 and 35. A qualification in teaching or social work would be desirable. He/she must have experience of working with children, administrative ability and will work within the Youth Department. A willingness to travel within the U.K. and to work unsocial hours at peak season is essential.

Salary will be in the area of £18,000 per annum, according to age and experience; there is a non-contributory pension scheme. The post is based at the London Headquarters. Leave entitlement is four weeks p.a. For further details please write to:

The Personnel Officer,
British Deaf Association,
10 Queen Anne Street,
London W1M 0SD

Closing date for applications: April 14th 1986

Successful Manager? Discover your full potential.

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It is a cosmopolitan programme. A third of the participants are based outside the UK. They are selected to achieve a balance across industries and sectors. Each course makes a working visit outside the UK and for the next course this is to Eastern Europe.

The London Executive Programme.

Applications are now being taken for the October 1986 programme and for the few remaining places on the April 1986 programme.

Geraldine Jackson, London Business School,
Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA.
Telephone 01-262 5050.

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Applicants should be Chartered Accountants, aged up to 35, with relevant experience in public practice, in financial institutions or in the corporate finance department of a large corporation.

Career prospects for ambitious candidates with partnership potential are excellent.

Write or phone now to Raymond Hurley for more information at:-

Touche Ross

The Business Partners

Touche Ross & Co.
Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR.
Telephone: 01-353 8011

OFFICE MANAGER

A medium sized professional partnership with offices in W.C.2 wishes to appoint a manager to support the partners in the administration of the firm. The manager will undertake general administrative duties but will not have role in relation to accounts. Experience of word processors and modern office machinery generally will prove a distinct advantage. Salary and terms for arrangement. Reply to BOX E18.

ASSISTANT MANAGER/ESS required for exclusive handling and business shop in Knightsbridge. Must be enthusiastic and self-motivated. Good pay and conditions. Phone 539 3344 on Saturdays or after 5pm.

MANAGER c£10,000 for Whitehorse Farm, near Ltd See Creme De La Creme.

CV's professionally written, phone 01-262 5050, Tel FMS on 02406 3367.

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THORN EMI, the largest consumer electrical company in the UK, is expanding its Central Research Laboratories to meet the demand for tomorrow's products. We are seeking Engineers and Scientists to work in our new laboratory complex which houses one of the world's most innovative research establishments and is situated in the high technology centre of South-East England.

Solid State Physicists

Solid State Physicists are required for micro engineering and fundamental studies into Thin Film Dielectrics. We have several vacancies, all of which are closely associated with our unique sensors research team. The appointments, subject to age, qualifications and experience, are for positions up to Senior Research/Project Leader level.

Device Physics

Our rapidly expanding displays activities need staff at all levels with electronic systems design abilities and knowledge of surface mounting and inter-connection techniques.

Magnetics/Storage

We are a world force in digital, audio, video and data recording systems. We need staff at all levels to work on novel systems and media for recording, especially magnetic, but optical is of increasing importance.

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Our work in TV Signal Processing leading towards true High Definition TV studies, improved standards and performance on TV display Systems is already well advanced. To maintain and indeed to increase this momentum, we are seeking a number of well qualified electronics engineers to make a significant contribution to our research programme. We would expect applicants to have at least four years relevant experience. The research expertise to be enhanced includes the investigation of new/improved display systems and associated signal processing; the study of video recording techniques, analogue and digital video techniques. The minimum qualification for these vacancies is a BSc in a relevant discipline.

Very attractive salaries and conditions of employment with excellent prospects for career development are offered to applicants who can make a significant contribution to the research in these fields. For further details and an application form please contact our personnel department on FREEPHONE "Central Research" extension 6648 quoting reference TT/132.



THORN EMI
Central Research Laboratories

FREEPOST, DAWLEY ROAD, HAYES, MIDD. UB3 1BR. TEL: 01-848 6648.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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- International client work within the UK, with unsurpassed opportunities to work abroad.

If you share our determination to succeed by meeting the highest

standards of professional excellence you can find out more by reading our booklet "Career Development in PW".

Please contact your nearest PW office or mail the slip below to: Mike Jennings, Price Waterhouse, Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9SY. Tel: 01-407 8989.

Price Waterhouse

Offices in: London, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Dudley, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Nottingham, Southampton, Windsor and Jersey.

Please send me a copy of your booklet "Career Development in PW".

Name: _____

Address: _____

To: Mike Jennings,
Price Waterhouse,
Southwark Towers,
32 London Bridge Street,
London, SE1 9SY.

AC 1610

Senior VAT Consultants

Salary up to £25,000 + Car

We have recently formed an International Trade Group, an experienced team of tax partners and consultants, which provides integrated tax services to clients in the fields of VAT, Customs & Excise Duties, and international and US Expatriate taxation. This exciting development within a large international accountancy practice has created further challenging career opportunities for senior VAT specialists.

You should have either HM Customs & Excise training and experience, at HEO or SEO grade,

or an accountancy or legal qualification. Successful candidates will have already gained substantial VAT experience, wide practical knowledge of the relevant legislation and must have the ability to communicate with senior management.

You will be responsible for consultancy assignments for clients ranging from large international companies to small businesses. You will be expected to liaise extensively with other parts of the PW practice and to demonstrate initiative and a keen sense of business awareness.

Candidates, likely to be aged about 30, will be offered an attractive salary, a car and other benefits. Prospects for further promotion are excellent. The positions are based in London and, where appropriate, relocation expenses will be paid.

Please write, in confidence, with detailed CV to:

John R. Townsend,
Price Waterhouse,
Southwark Towers,
32 London Bridge Street,
London SE1 9SY

CAREERS IN VAT

Price Waterhouse

Career opportunities open up as Sun Alliance Group moves into new era

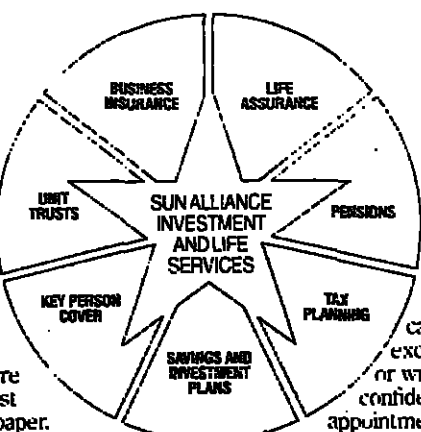
Now that the sun's here, your career prospects are brighter than ever

If you're set on having a better-paid, more stimulating, more challenging career, then recent events at the Sun Alliance Group are certain to rank as the hottest news you'll read in today's paper.

What you might not be aware of is the fact that Sun Alliance has joined forces with Phoenix Assurance Group and Property Growth Assurance to form one of the most powerful financial organisations in Great Britain today.

Sun Alliance Investment and Life Services, one of the Group's vital national sales teams, are offering excellent opportunities to people who'd like to succeed in the UK's fastest-growing and most dynamic industry.

If you join us as one of our direct sales consultants, you'll be trained to give people valuable advice on how our plans can help them. And you'll benefit from a career which promises unlimited earnings potential, first rate promotion prospects and lifelong security.



If you're aged between 25 and 55 and believe you can make it in Britain's most exciting business, please call or write to us in complete confidence for a Career Briefing appointment. But hurry. Now that the news has leaked out you won't be the only one who wants to head for the Sun.



Contact Derek Forbes on 01-680 0606. Or write to him at Sun Alliance Investment and Life Services, Leon House, High Street, Croydon CR9 1LU.

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Contact Richard Wallace on:

01-834 0489
Accountancy Personnel
6 Glen House,
Stag Place
London SW1E 5AA.

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This is a senior position at The Institute of Marine Engineers, an international learned society with over 16,000 members in the Marine and Offshore Industries. Suitable applicants will have had management and publishing experience with preferably an engineering/science background. The successful candidate will lead a team of 10, involved with Institute publications, book sales, conferences, exhibitions and the library information service. Non-contributory pension and BUPA.

R. C. BODDIE,
Institute of Marine Engineers,
76 Mark Lane,
London EC3R 7JH.
01-481 5493.

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Specific business experience will be less important than a consistent record of academic excellence and an ability to learn quickly. Remuneration will reflect that exceptional quality of the chosen candidates.

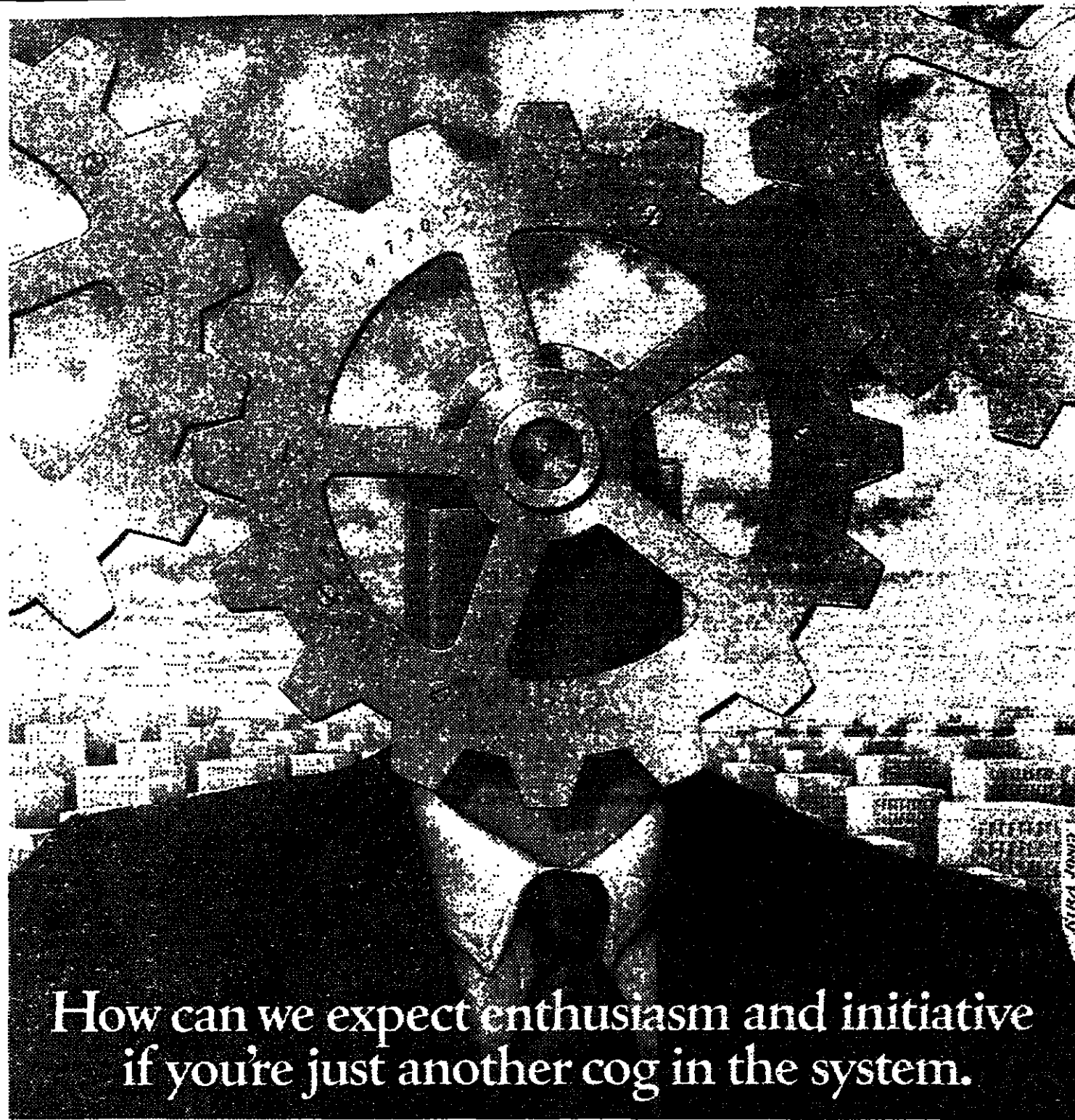
Applications, in writing, with full curriculum vitae, should be sent to:

Claire Curthoys
BOSTON CONSULTING
Devonshire House
Mayfair Place
London W1X 5FH

AERODYNAMICIST RESEARCH ENGINEER

Applications are required for the post of Aerodynamicist - Research Engineer for TEAM LOTUS INTERNATIONAL. Prospective applicants must have a good background in automotive engineering, research and development. Experience in low-speed wind-tunnel testing with moving ground plane would be beneficial. A general knowledge of scientific computer programming is required.

Applications in writing to:
Dr. John P. Davis,
TEAM LOTUS INTERNATIONAL,
Ketteringham Hall,
Wymondham,
Norfolk. NR18 9RS



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To: Citicorp Investment Bank,
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Please send me your information pack.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel. No. _____

*Subject to availability. Disk is 5.25MB IBM PC/XT AT with DOS 3.1

If you prefer, send a summary of your career experience to: C. P. Moss, IPS Division, Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd, 335 Strand, PO Box 242, London WC2R 1LS.

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Personnel and Training Professionals

Offshore Engineering

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Personnel Officer

Operating in a demanding environment, you will have the ability to influence and respond to management decisions. You will be particularly active in Resource Planning, Salary Administration and the maintenance of good Employee Relations. You will also help develop the personnel function to benefit the future of both the Company and its employees.

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In this key position, your principal activities will include recruitment for and control of training schemes for engineering graduates and school leavers. You will also be responsible for the administration of the management development programme. Your significant contribution to resource development will help provide the skills for the future.

Both positions require a flexible approach and highly developed interpersonal skills in order to take advantage of the excellent scope for further career development.

You will probably be aged between 24-30, with a minimum of 2 years relevant personnel experience and will have either a degree or IPM qualification.

The Company offers competitive starting salaries, paid overtime, a non-contributory pension and free life assurance. Relocation assistance will be offered where appropriate.

Please write with full c.v., quoting current salary to: Mr. R. Ryan, Senior Personnel Officer, Brown & Root (UK) Limited, Brown & Root House, 125 High Street, Colliers Wood, London SW19 2JR.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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TO £25K+ BENEFITS

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- LOCATIONS: LONDON, CAMBERLEY, BRISTOL

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Keyboard Sales Specialists

Our client is a world leader in the business systems and office equipment field. Their sales targets for 1986 are extremely high and therefore they only wish to recruit the best keyboard sales specialists in the business.

You must be aged 25 - 35 years, have experience in keyboard sales and now be ready to join the elite team of one of Britain's top business equipment companies. You must be totally professional in your selling approach and have ambition and drive to succeed in these demanding positions.

In return for these qualities, our client offers a tremendous benefits package.

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3/5 Charlotte Street,
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Our clients are the 'Blue Chips' of the PC industry. If you are a 'Blue Chip' of the DP sales profession, these are some of the opportunities we can talk about:

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MAJOR ACCOUNT SALES
MEN & WOMEN: OTE to £30K
SALES EXECUTIVES: OTE to £30K
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PLUS: TELE SALES (Surrey), PC ENGINEERS (London), CUSTOMER SUPPORT (London & Surrey).

For an informal discussion please ring Nigel Wood on 01-580 7988, or write to
PC Resources Ltd., Morley House, 320 Regent St. London W1R 5AG
Tel. 01-580 7988 (24 hr.)

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West Midlands

From £20,000 p.a. + Car + Benefits

Husky Computers Limited, the highly successful manufacturer of hand-held micro-computers, firmly established as a market leader in this country and also selling strongly world-wide, seeks a Production Director (Designate). The successful candidate will be experienced in producing medium quantity electronic systems to exacting quality standards. Husky products employ advanced surface mounting

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HUSKY

PER

Britain's Largest Executive Recruitment Consultancy

Financial Controller

£15,000

London W11

Required by Stiletto Ltd, a company at the forefront of the audio video communications promotions market. Responsibilities include the full accounting function and general office management. We seek a first-rate qualified Accountant with sound senior level experience seeking a new challenge in a growing company. Ideally a mature candidate seeking second career opportunity. Send full cv to: Robert Harrison, Chairman, Stiletto Communications Ltd, 122 Holland Park Avenue, London W11.

stiletto

Technical Sales Manager

To £14,000 + car

St Ives, Cambs

Armour Cases Limited, leaders in specialist packaging, are seeking a Technical Sales Manager to head up a sales team selling to MOD, prime contractors and customers in the electronics, engineering and aerospace industries. The successful candidate will have had experience in this market and be conversant with MOD procedures. He/she will also have the ability to motivate and control the sales team to further develop this growing part of the business. Please send full cv to: Mr R M Whitfield, Sales Manager, Armour Cases Ltd, London Road, St Ives, Cambs PE17 4EL.

Maintenance Controller

c£12,000+

SE London

My client is a well established chemical process manufacturer. Reporting to the Chief Engineer, responsibilities include all plant and equipment on site and ensuring optimum plant operation and machine productivity at all times. Aged 30-45 you ideally will have an HNC or equivalent. Supervisory experience gained in a production/process plant and equipment environment is a pre-requisite. Experience of hydraulics, pneumatics, steam generators, etc. is essential and ideally this will be combined with instrumentation/electronic knowledge. Send full cv to: Alison Webster, PER, 75 High Street, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5AG.

Works Engineer

Attractive salary

Cheshire

A well established autonomous subsidiary of an international group, my client manufactures plastic packaging goods for a range of household name customers. A Works Engineer is now required, to assume responsibility for the entire maintenance function of the purpose built factory, to plan the long term development of high volume injection moulding plant and machinery and to ensure the successful operation of a planned preventative maintenance programme, with a total budget of around £200,000. Candidates, aged 35-45, should be qualified to HNC/HND in electrical or mechanical engineering with several years' relevant experience. Send full cv to: John Smith, PER, 75 Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1SL.

Bakery Manager

c£15,000 + car

East London

My clients, a family owned company, are the largest independent bakery in London. They are currently seeking to recruit a Bakery Manager, to join their senior management team, responsible for the production of confectionery and bread, maintaining the company's reputation for good quality and investigating production methods to maximise productivity and efficiency. The appointee, aged 30-40, will be an accomplished manager with the ability to take an overview having spent at least five years in management. Experience gained within a bakery of confectionery production is essential. Send full cv, highlighting management expertise, to: Miss Jo Hughes, PER, 71 High Street, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5AG.

Contracts Manager

c£18,000 + car

Based Thames Valley

John G McGregor (Developments) Ltd, a subsidiary of a sizeable property and construction group based in Edinburgh are market leaders in private sheltered housing in Scotland. Planned expansion has created this new opportunity in Southern England. Based in Reading and accountable to the Regional Director your prime responsibility will be the oversight of construction of sheltered housing developments in the region. You will be working with main contractors, agents and sub-contractors, and other professional team members. Aged 35-45, qualifications in construction or quantity surveying would be an asset, but practical site experience in multiple housing units is essential. The salary is negotiable to reflect the experience offered. Send full cv to: Carol Pringle, Regional Manager, Management Selection Division, PER, 20 The Butts Centre, Reading RG1 7QB.

M'GREGOR

Engineer For Management

c£12,500

Southern Hampshire

This well established expanding company who are brand leaders in the manufacture and packaging of consumer goods are looking for an ambitious, enthusiastic Engineer with management potential who has the drive and motivation to take advantage of the excellent management opportunities likely to be offered within a relatively short period. Duties will include production projects on new or improved machinery, investigations into manufacturing materials or maintenance problems. Applicants should be aged 25-38, with a degree or equivalent in engineering preferably with mechanical, electrical or production bias. The ideal background will be at least three years' experience of high speed production machinery in an fringed environment. The company offers non-contributory BUPA and pension scheme, subsidised canteen and a pleasant South Coast location. Contact: Bernadette Carr, PER, 62-64 High Street, Southampton SO9 2EG. Tel: (0703) 38211.

Build On Our Success

Excellent opportunities to join a successful company supplying top quality products used in the construction of some of the UK's most prestigious building projects.

Works Manager

c£13,000

Telford, Shropshire

In a role which encompasses control of all operations of a new, fully automated production plant, you will be responsible for maintaining renowned product quality and ensuring procedural efficiency from the receipt of raw materials to finished goods loading. Continuous process experience is essential, (preferably brick, foundry, forging, refractory or metal industries), together with a working knowledge of computerised control or temperature measurement equipment, and good staff management skills. Ideally aged 25-40.

Regional Sales Manager

Attractive salary + car

Midlands

Leading and directing a small sales team in a role which will also involve you directly in sales and servicing of existing and new accounts in the southern part of the region, you will need a comprehensive knowledge of the construction industry, five years' good negotiating experience, primarily with architects, and the drive to maximise business potential throughout an important territory. Excellent salaries and very competitive benefits packages are offered for the right candidate. Send full cv to: Janet Roberts, PER, Halkyn House, Rhosddu Road, Wrexham LL11 1NE.

Purchasing Manager

Excellent salary + car

North London

Required by light manufacturing company to head purchasing and stock control functions. Responsibilities include overseeing £3 million annual budget and extending computerised stock control methods. Applicants with relevant senior management experience. Phone: Tony Culpin, PER, London North, on (01) 930 3484.

JOB HUNTERS

For a free job hunting information pack and weekly details on the recruitment market place including over 450 new jobs, telephone 0120 8200 or write to:
PER, (P) Fit & Well House, 2-4 Fitzwilliam Gate, Bedford St 4JH.
For all positions in this company applications are invited from both men and women.

Senior Contracts Engineer

c£12,000-£14,000 + car Gloucestershire

The UK subsidiary of a leading manufacturer of uninterrupted power supplies, frequency converters and specialised electrical drive systems seek to recruit a Senior Contracts Engineer. An enviable reputation and customer base has been established in the computer, telecommunications, aircraft and marine industries. The position involves both commercial and project engineering responsibility for schemes and contracts incorporating UPS systems (battery based) and associated products including perhaps diesel-generator plant through from acceptance of order to final site installation. Aged 30-45, applicants must have appropriate experience and qualifications, preferably leading to corporate membership of the IEE. This important position in a lively, developing company, commands a salary level negotiable enough to attract the right calibre of applicant. Other benefits include a company car, contributory pension scheme and relocation. Send full cv to: Paul Smith, PER, Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1TA.

Corrosion Engineers

Excellent salary + benefits

Aberdeen

Occidental is one of the few major oil companies in the North Sea who can offer you the valuable experience of working with both onshore and offshore production facilities. We would like to appoint two experienced engineers to further improve corrosion control methods developed for existing facilities and to undertake critical roles in the evaluation and specification of new materials for Scapa and other new North Sea projects. You would be responsible for the implementation and improvement of corrosion control monitoring methods and the analysis, reporting and development of technical and economic solutions as a result of failure analysis investigations. Additionally you would prepare material specifications, including those covering welding materials, for new developments and for the maintenance of existing topside, subsea and onshore facilities. You should hold a degree in preferably metallurgy or alternatively materials science and will have acquired a minimum of three years' industrial experience. You must have a detailed knowledge of welding materials and procedures and familiarity with offshore operations would be advantageous. In addition to a secure but challenging future, Oxy can offer you an attractive salary and comprehensive benefits package including pension scheme, life assurance, private health plan, subsidised staff restaurant, sports and social club and in appropriate cases generous relocation assistance. Please write enclosing a full cv to: George Foxler, Employee Relations Department, Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Limited, 1 Claymore Drive, Aberdeen AB2 8GB.

International Area Manager - Automotive

Attractive salary + car

Notts based

Required an experienced sales person, fluent in German, to sell an automotive component to OEMs in Germany and the Low Countries. Interested? Phone: Pam Siskney, PER, Nottingham on (0602) 419781.

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Salary negotiable + car

Lincoln

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SENIOR MANAGER

London

c. £20k

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You will already possess proven communication skills, be administratively able with a flair for organisation and will preferably be currently working in the personnel/training function, although this is not an essential requirement. You will probably be aged 40-52 and hold a professional or graduate qualification.

The role demands strong personal qualities and candidates should be authoritative, persuasive, independent and able to apply analytical skills to problem solving.

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Please apply in confidence with C.V. to: Stephen Mawditt, Managing Director,

Senior Management International
Executive Search Consultants

Landseer House,
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Architects

Risley, Cheshire

At British Nuclear Fuels plc, we are determined not only to maintain but to expand our role as one of the world leaders in nuclear fuel cycle technology. To this end a substantial investment programme totalling £3.5 billion is currently underway which requires new approaches, not only to the Physics-based technologies, but also to Architecture, Building and Construction Engineering. This is an opportunity for talented Architects (male/female) to widen their professional horizons, with ample scope for creativity and originality on an interesting variety of projects.

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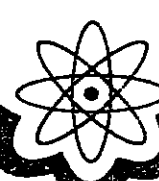
knowledge of building regulations and other statutory requirements.

These posts are based at our new headquarters at Risley, within easy motorway reach of the major north western conurbations, where housing is readily available at realistic prices. A further post is based at Sellafield, Cumbria in the Site Architects Office. Sellafield is adjacent to the Lake District National Park with its many amenities.

We are offering salaries within the range £11,200 - £13,515 (including guaranteed bonuses), together with a range of benefits, including relocation assistance where appropriate.

If you feel ready to broaden your horizons and can make an immediate impact in this important area, please write or telephone for an application form quoting reference 0618/T to: Mrs Vera Williamson, Personnel Officer, Room A121, British Nuclear Fuels plc, FREEPOST, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 1BR. Telephone Warrington (0925) 832000 Ext 2041 or 3197.

BNFL



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The brief will encompass all Training & Development activities including design and implementation of a variety of programmes to cover individual and group training needs throughout the company.

This is a demanding position requiring an innovative approach, well developed interpersonal skills and a high degree of self-motivation. Candidates ideally 25-40, must be established professionals with a proven record of success. A practical style is more likely to succeed than an academic approach.

An excellent salary and benefits package is offered and where necessary, relocation assistance may be considered. Please write with full career details to:

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If you can provide technical solutions to business problems in London, please send a concise curriculum vitae to: **Michel Noiset, Central London Software Services Manager, Digital Equipment Company Limited, James Watt House, 279 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 8AA.**

Other software opportunities exist throughout the UK. For an application form, please contact the Personnel Department at your nearest Digital office.



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The starting salary will be negotiable. A minimum of pounds 37,500 per annum may be expected and thereafter substantial annual reviews based on performance. Prospects are excellent.

There are no personal taxes in the Cayman Islands and living conditions are very attractive.

All applications should be in writing with a curriculum vitae and passport sized photograph addressed to Anthony Travers, Maples and Calder, P.O. Box 309, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies. Interviews will be held in London.

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The person we are looking for will already be in regular contact with a wide circle of top marketing and sales executives in public/retail/industrial companies at Director level. He/she will be able to seek and identify prime clients with a corporate need for promotional services in audio visual and video communications. A complete integrated range of financial services including Portfolio Management and Banking Services. Consequently we require people of integrity to train for a career in this wider sphere of financial management consultancy.

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We consider well trained totally professional people crucial to the future of our business.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Applicants must have an intimate knowledge of the working of the Lloyd's industry and be of senior standing, having warmth and strength of character, complementary to the Company's business style and philosophy.

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Corporate Strategic Planner

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The Stock Exchange

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This has created an exceptional opportunity for an ambitious professional to spearhead a major sales drive. Reporting to the Market Manager, you will develop existing major accounts, initiate and control the development of new products and identify potential new business.

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For more information and an application form potential applicants are invited to contact:-

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British Standards Institution

2 Park Street, LONDON W1A 2BS

Telephone: 01-629 9000 Ext 3066

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We look for considerable journalistic and broadcasting experience, sound editorial judgement, experience in Local Radio, a knowledge of the area, and you will need to live close to the studios. Good microphone voice and current driving licence essential. (Ref. 9460/T)

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Plus allowance of £971 p.a.

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Current activities include the development of sensors, expert systems, mathematical modelling, modern control systems, technology transfer and novel processing techniques.

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Written applications with CVs and current salaries please to: Alastair Henry, Personnel Manager, Leatherhead Food Research Association, Rindalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7RY.

OPPORTUNITIES IN FOOD PROCESS ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY

HORIZONS

A guide to
career horizonsGround control
for high fliers
in a nosediveAnita Roddick:
Formidable example

If Mrs Thatcher had gone into business instead of politics, she would probably have been on someone's main board by now - but it is unlikely that she would have got as far as being managing director of a leading company.

Despite the example of such formidable entrepreneurs as Anita Roddick and Jennifer D'Abo, women in senior management jobs are still a rarity. The ones who have made it, have had to show exceptional ability to get there, more so than male colleagues at a similar level.

That is probably why there are relatively few women on the books of career counsellors, says Pauline Hyde, whose firm is one of several organizations providing individual mid-career advice and help with job-hunting techniques, mainly to redundant executives who have been earning £20,000 a year and upwards.

Sanders & Sidney, another firm in the same business, has about five per cent women clients, which is probably a fair reflection of the percentage of women in jobs at this level. Both specialize in what is called "outplacement". They work directly for employers who for one reason or another have had to part company with senior people, but who want to help them find another job elsewhere.

That is not always easy for someone who might have been demoralized by the circumstances of departure and who often has little idea of how to identify and market his or her skills. Putting those things right is the task career counsellors set themselves. They do not claim to find jobs for their clients, but metaphorically pick them up, dust them down, find out where they want to go in career terms and show them how to get there.

Sanders & Sidney is considering adding a woman counsellor to its staff. So are the career problems of women executives different from those of their male colleagues?

Genie Hart, of Minister Executive, says: "The initial reaction to losing a job can sometimes be more emotional. Women who've got to the top have not only had to work exceptionally hard, they've often had to make great personal sacrifices to get there, such as making a choice between marriage and children or a career."

"That is often tied up with a strong psychological involvement with the employing organization. For a woman, losing a job can be like a bad divorce."

My first job as a counsellor is to help them get that aspect out of their system.

But though women take this situation more personally than men, they also recover from it more quickly. Pauline Hyde says: "They show the same qualities in the job search that took them into senior positions in the first place." The view is confirmed by Derek Edwards, of Sanders & Sidney, which, as well as counselling, offers clients secretarial services, individual offices and free telephone calls to anywhere in the world, if they are relevant to the job search.

He says: "Our women clients are better at taking full advantage of these facilities. They also tend to work harder at 'contact development', which is a central concept of career counselling."

"At senior levels, 70 per cent of jobs are never advertised; they are filled

Godfrey Golzen on the
outplacement trend

through personal contacts and word-of-mouth recommendations."

In the course of this process, Mr Edwards has found women more intuitively perceptive than men about the "chemistry" of an organization.

Most counselling firms offer clients the use of an office in town and at least some form of secretarial back-up. It was this that Mary White (not her real name, because people are still sensitive about the idea of having gone through career counselling) found particularly useful in the early stages of her search.

She said: "It was a shock to have to do without the structure of an office. I'd always had secretaries, people to take messages and so forth."

Another aspect she found invaluable was being asked to write her own career history, highlighting her achievements and the kind of work she had most enjoyed. "It was the first thing they asked me to do," she said, "and it focussed the direction of my search right away. I'd never thought about my life quite in those terms."

Mary found a job within two months at a better salary than she had been earning before. It must be said that as a qualified chartered accountant, highly articulate and with international banking experience, she was easy to help. The period more usually quoted as the time

Jennifer D'Abo:
Exceptional ability

it takes a typical female counselling candidate to find a job - that is, someone between 35 and 45, earning around £20,000 a year - is three to four months.

Despite equal-opportunity legislation, Mary believes that interviewers are more sympathetic to men out of a job. She comments: "The idea that a man is a more deserving case, other things being equal, because there are wives and children to support, is often an unspoken thought."

Mary was offered outplacement by her firm. She was somewhat surprised when I told her how much it had probably cost the firm - about 15 per cent of the salary she had been earning. There are counselling firms that also offer their services direct to individuals. But the VAT element is not recoverable nor can the cost be set against tax, as is the case with employers, for whom career counselling is a fairly cost-beneficial way of doing the best they can for people they have had to let go.

Mary admitted that in the heat of the moment, her first reaction was to refuse her firm's offer. But she decided to give it a try, although she reserved the right to choose the counselling organization herself, rejecting the one originally suggested.

She said: "I got advice from head-hunters and acquaintances who knew the recruitment field. When you go for interviews and start ringing round for contact meetings, the status of the counselling firm is very important. Some are known to be more discriminating than others in the clients they take on."

But where do high-flying women go wrong in their careers? In Mary's case the problem was that she had simply gone on too long in the same job. It is not uncommon for women to find that, when it comes to the next step up, a man is preferred.

"Women invest all their energies in doing the job well," she says. "They think less than men do about where it fits into the overall pattern of their career and therefore how long they should stick in a particular job or with a particular company. One thing that counselling has taught me, is to define my objectives and to check that the job I'm doing stays in line with them."

● The third and last article on jobs in the media is due to appear on Monday, April 7.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Council of TA & VR Associations, Centre Block, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4SG. Completed forms must reach the Council offices by 2 May 1986.

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Preston HEALTH AUTHORITY

RACING: THREE CHANCES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE TRAINER TO ERASE MEMORY OF SANDY SPRITE

Edwards tries to lay an Aintree ghost

In the fifth of a series on the less obvious Grand National candidates, JOHN KARTER visits John Edwards and his three contenders, Broomy Bank (53-1), Fethard Friend (50-1) and Little Polveir (100-1).

By its very nature the Grand National produces a treasure trove of tales of the unexpected. Indeed, the realm of fiction would often be hard-pressed to match the consistent level of drama, pathos and shock of the excitement that the world's greatest steeplechase throws up year after year.

For example, many a self-respecting publisher might have rejected as too far-fetched a fictional story about the National that reached its climax with a jockey, who had recovered from being desperately ill with cancer, galloping to glory on a former cripple of a horse that had appeared likely never to run again. Yet this was exactly what happened in 1981 when Aidan O'Brien and Bob Champion made the watching world reach for the paper tissues.

And what about the remarkable events of 1951 when Devon Loch, owned by the Queen Mother, appeared to jump a "phantom" fence on the run-in and collapsed just 50 yards from the post with the word "it was ridden with un-canny aptness by Dick Francis, later to become the best-selling author of racing-bestsellers.

Then there was the mayhem at the 23rd fence in 1967 when virtually the whole field came to a standstill and the 100-1 non-hoper, Foinavon, came from another coun-

ty to gallop past the lot. More recently, there was the cruel cutting down by Red Rum—who was to become the Aintree phenomenon of all time with two more victories—of the trail-blazing Crisp, who looked like winning by the length of the straight until his legs simply refused to give any more on that final run to the post.

Last year's race produced a twist in the tale and a finish as good as any in Aintree folklore when 1st Suspect, previously labelled the biggest rogue since Barabbar, and who only ran at the insistence of Hywel Davies, the jockey, and against the wishes of the owner, collared Mr Naught with an amazing sprint in the last 50 yards.

These examples represent just a minuscule place from the rich tapestry of the National. And, if you examine in detail the complex patterns of the race, there appears to be one common thread. Because horse and rider are entering uncharted realms of endurance, in the National, more than any other race, you can never be certain it is won until you see it in black and white up on the numbers board.

John Edwards, the Ross-on-Wye trainer, though he had won it for some 15 years ago when in only his sixth season, he ran his brilliant mare, Sandy Sprite. A difficult horse to train because of her suspect



John Edwards with Fethard Friend, the choice of stable jockey, Paul Barton

legs, she came to Aintree without a run since her second place in the Welsh National some three months previously.

Sandy Sprite jumped immaculately and went into a clear lead four fences from home. She flew the last, apparently still going well. "I was watching from the top of the stands," Edwards recalls. "It suddenly hit me that I was going to win the National."

Halfway up that never-ending run-in, however, the great Irish rider, Ron Barry, whose first National ride it was, suddenly began to send out distress signals as Sandy Sprite began to drift ominously out to her right. She had broken down irreparably and Barry could only let her continue. Edwards watched in stunned disbelief as Sandy Sprite

never got good up before a race except at Aintree," he says.

His hunting, shooting, fishing squire, who farms 1,200 acres of prime Herefordshire countryside, should be well and truly "geed up" on April 5, when this year's Seagram-sponsored event is run.

For Edwards, who has had two unsuccessful attempts at the National as a rider before Sandy Sprite and several as a trainer since, will be mounting his strongest Aintree challenge yet with a trio of credible candidates in Broomy Bank, Fethard Friend and Little Polveir.

When pressed Edwards admits to fancying the chances of all three — "They are certainly all better than I am," he says — but he looks justified in doing so. They have all demonstrated a healthy level of ability, boundless stamina and sound, reliable jumping. Pressed further, Edwards singles out the 11-year-old Broomy Bank as his main hope and looking at the horse's past record at Aintree it is not hard to understand why.

Broomy Bank has been well-supported for the last two Nationals, but cruel strokes of misfortune have denied him on both occasions. Two years ago he started second favourite after an eye-catching victory in the Kim Muir Challenge Cup at the Cheltenham Festival. He was going like a train when he broke a blood vessel and came home in his own time in eighth place.

Last year he was again travelling as smoothly as anything up to Becher's second time round when the fall of West Tip hampered him so badly that his saddle slipped and Jim Wilson was unseated at the next fence.

One might think that Broomy Bank's best chance had gone. Yet Edwards believes he has the horse as well as he has ever been and he has

booked Peter Scudamore, the leading jockey, to ride. "Broomy Bank is ideal to go round Aintree," he says.

"And he has been specially trained for the National again."

This season Broomy Bank has won easily at Worcester and Cheltenham and returned to the latter course earlier this month for another crack at the Kim Muir. A mistake early on knocked him out of contention, but he delighted Edwards by running on to finish fifth.

Edwards will certainly not let you forget his other two runners, however. Fethard Friend is a tough and consistent stayer, who has also run well in the National before and has a stone less to carry than last year. Significantly, he was last year's Barton, the stable jockey, in preference to the other two.

Little Polveir, the smallest of the three, but a tigerish character equally capable of handling the National fences in Edwards's opinion, has been steadily finding his form this season. Last year he went down on many a National short list when he bolted home by 10 lengths in a competitive long-distance handicap at Sandown.

Enjoying what will almost certainly prove to be his best season, Edwards is approaching Aintree with an optimism that even he cannot disguise. So, if one of his trio jumps the last with a clear lead on Saturday week will Edwards think back to Sandy Sprite and will raise the roof. His answer is typically laid back. "I'll cross my fingers like mad," he says. "And I might just jump up and down a bit."

Edwards's three runners are all well-supported for the last two Nationals, but cruel strokes of misfortune have denied him on both occasions. Two years ago he started second favourite after an eye-catching victory in the Kim Muir Challenge Cup at the Cheltenham Festival. He was going like a train when he broke a blood vessel and came home in his own time in eighth place.

Last year he was again travelling as smoothly as anything up to Becher's second time round when the fall of West Tip hampered him so badly that his saddle slipped and Jim Wilson was unseated at the next fence.

One might think that Broomy Bank's best chance had gone. Yet Edwards believes he has the horse as well as he has ever been and he has

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Trip looks perfect for Royal To Do

By Mandarin

With just nine days to go until Last Suspense attempts to repeat his Grand National success of 12 months ago, Tim Forster, his able trainer, could scarcely have his Locomotive Bassett team in better form.

Over his four winners at Newbury on Friday, the stable completed a Sandown Park treble on Tuesday and now ROYAL TO DO should keep the ball rolling successfully towards Aintree by winning today's most valuable race at Ludlow — the Bromfield Sand and Gravel Handicap Chase.

Royal To Do started favourite to gain his third successive win at Sandown earlier this month but had to play second fiddle to The Argonaut. He may have found the distance of two miles a shade on the short side there as his previous victories this season were over longer trips at Northampton (2m 6f) and Towcester (2m 5f).

In any case, it was no disgrace to be beaten by the Queen Mother's progressive young chaser and he appears to have nothing of that calibre against him today. Back over a more suitable trip of 2½ miles, Royal To Do is napped to pick up the winning thread.

Hywel Davies, who rides Royal To Do, also partners the Wincanton winner, Con Glen, for Forster in the second division of the Lentwardine Novices' Hurdle but my preference here is for the lightly-ridden N.R. MCCEE, who showed promise on both his outings last season and again when third to Home Country and Teletreder at Taunton in January.

As Home County has since finished fourth in the Triumph Hurdle and Teletreder has chased home the useful Canote Express in a valuable Chesham contest, that was clearly an above-average Taunton novice hurdle and, granted normal improvement, Mr McGee now has an excellent chance to get off the mark.

The Dickinsons have an exceptionally high strike rate at Southwell and that could be further improved this afternoon when Kiltipper and Rheocres, Monica Dickinson's only runners of the day, both have winning chances. Kiltipper stayed on well to win over 2½ miles at Kelso in December and should find the three miles of the Bargepole Conditional Jockeys Novices' Hurdle right up his street.

Rheocres, who has not run for almost a year but this well-bred individual, by Rheingold out of a valuable Noble mare, has more than a touch of class and should be up to defying his welter burden in the Annesley Handicap Hurdle.

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HORSE TRAILS

Giovanni's response earns fine victory

By Jenny MacArthur

Ferpi Eilberg and the German-bred Giovanni had a happy preparatory outing yesterday for today's grand prize when they won the Advanced Test 58, the equivalent standard of the Intermediate II test, at the dressage selection trials at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire.

The West German-born Eilberg felt that the 11-year-old Giovanni, only in his second year of grand prix, was a sluggish during his test and a good kick to wake him up resulted in a break during the extended trot. But this was a brilliant mistake, for it broke the rest of the test in which his canter pirouettes were as near faultless as one could hope to see.

Eilberg, who next month goes to Australia to train the British three-day event team for the world championships, finished a clear 20 marks ahead of David Zeuthen, the winners of the grand prize here last year.

As Hunt and Eilberg are both professionals they are unable to be selected for the British teams but the three riders in yesterday's class are all amateurs and providing they impress today, are very much in contention for a place in the team for the world championships which take place in Canada in

FOOTBALL

Oxford call on Perryman to help avoid relegation

Oxford United yesterday completed the signing of Steve Perryman, the Tottenham captain.

The 34-year-old defender had talks earlier this week with Maurice Evans, the Oxford manager, and the formalities were completed yesterday by Jim Hunt, the club secretary. Two weeks ago Evans said he was no longer interested in Perryman, but negotiations were reopened following two consecutive defeats in the League which pushed the Milk Cup finalists back into the first division relegation zone.

Perryman is expected to make his debut against Queens Park Rangers — Oxford's opponents in the

Milk Cup Final — at Manor Road on Saturday.

Bournemouth have agreed terms with Bristol Rovers for the winger Mark O'Connor, the Republic of Ireland under-21 international. He will make his debut at home to Swansea on Saturday.

John Bond, the Birmingham City manager, has a dilemma in deciding whether to use Billy Garton against Manchester United on Saturday. The 21-year-old defender is on loan from Old Trafford and Ron Atkinson, the Manchester United manager, has said he would prefer the player not to play in the meeting between the two sides.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

SECOND DIVISION: Barnsley 0, Middlesbrough 0; Portsmouth 2, Millwall 1. THIRD DIVISION: Bristol Rovers 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 1; Bury 2, Swindon 2; Cardiff City 2, Rotherham United 3; Chesterfield 2, Watford 2; Darlington 1, Bolton Wanderers 1. FOURTH DIVISION: Colchester United 1, Southport 1; Mansfield 1, Southend United 1; Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1; Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1. FIFTH DIVISION: Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1; Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1; Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1. LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Tottenham 3, Haverhill 1.

Sports Council backed

By George Hill

A call for the downgrading of the Sports Council has been rejected in a Commons Environment Committee report into the financing of sport.

The report has come out against a claim from the voluntary Central Council for Physical Recreation for the downgrading of the Sports Council and for the restitution of the executive powers taken from it when the Sports Council was set up on its present basis in 1972. While agreeing that there is an overlap between the two bodies, it concludes that it is the CCPR whose usefulness is in doubt. It is little more than a lobbying organisation, which should be financed by the sporting interests it represents.

"It is not for my committee to pronounce whether or not a voluntary committee should continue to exist," said Sir Hugh Ross, chairman of the final use of school halls, it claims.

The Sports Council, Second Report from the Environment Committee, HMSO, £9.60.

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SKIING: TAKING THE LONG, SCENIC ROUTE TO A HAIR'S-BREADTH FINISH



The duel for the crown: Girardelli (left) was taken to the last breath of the season by Zurbriggen

The season without end is over

Bromont, Quebec (Reuters) — It took 38 races over eight months on three continents, including South America, before the men's World Cup Alpine skiing title was decided by less than half a second in the season's last race.

The climax came in a duel between Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, the holder, and Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, the former champion, in this eastern Canadian resort after a year in which each admitted to a series of frustrations. Girardelli prevailed, keeping his title, after Zurbriggen was 45.10ths of a second short of victory in a slalom that would have given him his second title.

Girardelli praised his opponent's challenge: "If he caught me, he would have deserved it, that's for sure, because he put up a very good performance." In the end Girardelli's skill in several disciplines returned the overall title to Luxembourg, to which he moved at the age 14. He was born in Austria but does not compete there because of disagreements with ski officials.

founder of the World Cup organizing committee, described it as hectic.

He said that more snow-making equipment would be available in Europe next year and that skiers' complaints over too many races would probably result in fewer events in 1986-87. "Everybody agrees we have too many races," he said. "We are working on that so we can have fewer next year."

The men squabbled with the organizing body over when conditions were safe enough to race. "It was a bitter thing and the racers had the right to complain over hazardous conditions," Lang said. There is still no settlement over skiers' demands for more prize-money and the dispute left hard feelings on both sides. "The racers are paid to race so if they are good enough they can win substantial money," Lang said.

Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, lost the downhill title on the last race of the season in British Columbia when he fell 200 metres from the finish, allowing Peter Wirsberger, of

Walliser comes up trumps

Quebec (Reuters) — Maria Walliser was the surprise performer in a Swiss women's team whose domination of the 1985-86 World Cup alpine skiing season was widely predicted.

Walliser, aged 22, runner-up in the 1984 Olympic downhill in Sarajevo, won the overall individual title to confound the theory that she lacked the consistency to hold onto four gruelling months. Her teammate, 19-year-old Michela Figini, the previous World Cup holder, had been tipped to repeat her triumph of last season when she was simply out of range for her competitor.

Ironically though, Figini, who celebrated nine victories in 1984-85, was the one who fell short this year while Walliser, unable to reach the top in previous World Cup competitions, showed strong determination.

Walliser won four races and

was eleventh after the first leg in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, and victory appeared unattainable. But her astonishing second run gave her the lead over her closest rival Hess, who had to be content with second place in the season's standings.

The battle between Walliser, Gutensohn and Graham for the downhill title was as gripping as the emergence of the girls' 17-year-old, Marija Svet, of Yugoslavia, was unexpected. Svet, winner of two races, including the last giant slalom here, was third in the final giant slalom standings and seventh overall in the World Cup. Her next climb from third overall last year was achieved in only her second year on the World Cup tour.

Although West German Marija Kiehl won the super giant slalom discipline, she did not reach her potential this year, having lost three races in the top 10

Artificial pitches win support from two clubs

Doubts come to the surface

The questions about all-weather, artificial pitches are now being asked in Rugby League. Despite the enthusiasm of Widnes and Salford, the two clubs have of late been installing such a surface following the lead of Luton Town Football Club, there are considerable misgivings within the 13-a-side code.

In the past month representatives of Widnes and Salford have visited Luton Town Road to talk about and tread upon the artificial surface. Both delegations now want to go ahead with their ambitions, and some may say grandiose plans to build super-stadia at Noughat Park and The Willows, with the all-weather pitch surrounded by plush grandstands, multi-sports centres and leisure facilities.

Yet the doubts persist: doubts as to the suitability of the surface for a physical contact game like Rugby League where players come into contact with the ground with maximum impact; doubts also about the possibility of injuries similar to the "grass burn" syndrome on dry, sun-baked normal turf.

There is no doubting the enthusiasm of those who are guiding the Widnes and Salford ventures. The clubs are planning

When coaches like Kevin Ashcroft talk guardedly about the possible wearing of knee-pads, and an experienced official like Ronnie Close calls for a trial match to be played, there are obvious misgivings even among the believers in synthetic turf.

There are reservations at Rugby League headquarters. David Howes, the public relations officer, says: "We are a game of minor clubs, and such a revolutionary step cannot be entered into hastily without consulting all the members at a full meeting of the council."

Howes added: "The main worry of League officials was the possibility of injuries to players, the greatest assets within the game. In soccer there is talk of the new-style surfaces causing new types of strains and injuries through players' lack of familiarity with them, and ours is a physical contact game."

"We don't want to get to the point where players are padded up to the eyebrows, as in American football, but we do not intend to approach this issue with closed minds. After all, Rugby League has got to move with modern technology like all other professional sports."

FOOTBALL

THIRD DIVISION: Portsmouth 2, Derby 1; Gillingham 1, Luton Town 1. FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Arsenal 3, Chelsea 2; Watford 2, Rotherham United 1; Bury 2, Swindon 2; Cardiff City 2, Rotherham United 3; Chesterfield 2, Watford 2; Darlington 1, Bolton Wanderers 1. FOURTH DIVISION: Colchester United 1, Southport 1; Mansfield 1, Southend United 1; Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1; Wokingham 1, Wokingham 1. LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Tottenham 3, Haverhill 1.

GOLF

SUNDERLAND FOURSCORES: First round: 1. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 2. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 3. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 4. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 5. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 6. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 7. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 8. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 9. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 10. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 11. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 12. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 13. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 14. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 15. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 16. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 17. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 18. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 19. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 20. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 21. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 22. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 23. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 24. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 25. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 26. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 27. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 28. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 29. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 30. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 31. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 32. J. D. Murphy (Widnes) 64; 33. J. D. 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Waddle wipes out England's fears

Soviet Union 0
England 1

England's fears that injuries would leave them vulnerable against the powerful Soviet Union proved needless here yesterday when a second-half goal from Waddle gave them a victory to bring confidence on the approach to the World Cup. Even without the influence and strength of Robson and the attacking power of Hateley, this rearranged England side proved capable of overcoming opponents also lacking some of their more promising players but short of determination and tactical perception.

Thus England stretched their run of unbeaten matches to eight and in the unlikely surroundings of the Soviet Union, where the home side had an almost flawless record going back many years.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, was left with only one fully fit forward, Beardsley. Hateley, who spent 48 hours getting to Tbilisi, succumbed not to the fatigue

of it all but to a groin strain. This left the onus for scoring on Lineker, who was himself suffering from a similar injury. In theory Waddle was left like an archer without a target. England's opening play was promising enough to give encouragement. After several bright, quick attacks on the flank by Anderson, their speed in attack caused the Soviet defence sufficient worry for the experienced Dasayev to take a hasty lunge at Lineker, who had intercepted a slovenly back-pass. Lineker was swept to the ground but the Bulgarian referee would have none of the appeals.

Having experienced that disappointing decision, England must have felt even more aggrieved when, after 17 minutes, Anderson made what appeared to be a legitimate challenge on Gotsmanov, who was moving dangerously into the penalty area. This time the referee immediately pointed to the spot. However, England felt justice was done when Chivadze drove the penalty so

solidly against the foot of the post that the ball rebounded beyond the penalty area. The crowd of over 50,000 began to express displeasure with their side. Solid, reliable defensive work by Wilkins helped ensure that the Soviet attacks came to little in the English penalty area. Nevertheless, Lineker and Beardsley were left isolated upfield.

Tactically, the familiar problems in the centre of England's defence were obvious. Wright's headstrong determination to get into the action when he should have been giving way to others was the main reason why Anderson gave away the penalty.

Lineker had few chances to show his real finishing form, mainly because Hoddle was spending so much time in defensive positions that forward passes were rare. But shortly after half-time Hoddle sent a glorious long through ball into the stride of Lineker, whose shot slid past the base of the post.

The arrival of the veteran but still nimble Blokhin raised

the spirits of the crowd but his first prompting in attack merely brought one of those brave saves Shilton brings off at falling feet.

If Blokhin brought some originality to the Soviet side, so England's substitute, Hodge, added an edge to England's attacks. Midway through the second half Beardsley beat his man on the right and seemed about to make a diagonal run when he spotted Waddle in the centre approaching the penalty area. His square pass was taken on the run by Waddle, who dodged his marker and drove a splendid low drive inside the left post.

SOVIET UNION: R Dasayev; V Bessonov; A Chivadze; A Dmyanenko; A Bubnov; K Gotsmanov; S Guseinov; G Morozov; S Aleinikov; G Kondratyev; S Rodionov.
ENGLAND: P Shilton (Southampton); V Anderson (Aston Villa); K Sansom (Aston Villa); R Wilkins (Aston Villa); M Wright (Southampton); T Butcher (Ipswich Town); G Hoddle (Tottenham Hotspur); G Cowans (Barns); G Lineker (Everton); P Beardsley (Newcastle United); C Waddle (Tottenham Hotspur).
Referee: V Tsionchev (Bulgaria).

Southall suffers broken ankle

From Eamon Dunphy
Dublin

Republic of Ireland 0
Wales 1

Wales survived intense pressure from the Irish to win here yesterday afternoon, although their pleasure was considerably reduced by the loss of their goalkeeper, Neville Southall, who broke his ankle in what appeared to be an innocent fall in the 66th minute.

Southall's injury is also a serious blow to his club Everton in their attempt to retain their first division title and win the FA Cup. Southall will almost certainly miss the rest of the season.

This may seem an inauspicious beginning to Jack Charlton's career in interna-

tional team management. But the scoreline lies. Outstanding performances by the Oxford United pair, Ray Houghton and John Aldridge, and the side's overall willingness to persevere after Wales had stolen an early lead will nourish Charlton's hopes for the future.

Frank Stapleton's absence meant that 12 players originally selected missed this game. Both managers made do, but the patches showed in a scrappy opening in which neither side strung more than three passes together. A small crowd braved wind and rain to welcome Jack Charlton, the Republic's new manager, to Dublin.

Wales surprised by taking the lead against the run of play after 17 minutes with a goal of disarming simplicity. Phillips's well-flighted corner

was flicked on by James and Ian Rush nodded gently past Payton. Wales might have increased their lead in the 25th minute when Rush and Davies combined to free Lowndes. But Payton got his fingertips to a sharply-rising drive.

After 37 minutes, Houghton crossed from the right, Whelan touched on, and Robinson grazed the Welsh crossbar with a header. Content with their slender advantage, Wales settled for containment in the second half.

Houghton and Aldridge grew visibly in surrounds familiar to gritty pros from Oxford United. Aldridge clipped a post to end a goal-mouth scramble in the 59th minute. Houghton ran with ever-growing conviction at the Welsh defence.

Southall's injury came when

he went up for a ball with Aldridge. Last year's Footballer of the Year, so vital to Everton, was taken to a Dublin hospital. His substitute, Andy Norman, was immediately in action, saving point-blank from Houghton. He had a hectic final 15 minutes.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: G Payton (Fulham); D Langan (Oxford United); J Anderson (Newcastle United); D O'Leary (Aston Villa); J Beglin (Liverpool); R Houghton (Oxford United); B Brady (Inter Milan); R Whelan (Liverpool); M Robinson (Queen's Park Rangers); J Aldridge (Oxford United); P McGrath (Manchester United).
WALES: N Southall (Everton); R James (Queen's Park Rangers); K Jackett (Wentford); P Nicholas (Luton Town); J Jones (Huddersfield); D Phillips (Manchester City); C Blackmore (Manchester United); I Rush (Liverpool); G Davies (Manchester City); S Lowndes (Millwall); J Charles (Oxford United).
Referee: K J Hope (Scotland).

More football, page 38.



Breaking through Soviet block: Beardsley, watched by Anderson, on the attack in Tbilisi yesterday

Goldie hot to handle

By Jim Railton

Cambridge and their reserves, Goldie, were at each other's throats yesterday morning preparing for Saturday's Boat Race (3.15). They were practising stake-boat starts and pressed Cambridge's non-rowing president Quintus Travis into acting as a stake-boat man. Cambridge found their reserves pretty hot to handle. During a manoeuvre to turn into the tide between rows Goldie's stern punctured Cambridge's bows, but fortunately did not penetrate into

the honeycomb structure. A piece of sticking tape was sufficient to patch Cambridge's boat, aptly named this year, "The Hell Boat".

If anything, Goldie were slightly faster off the start. Certainly eyebrows were raised yesterday morning. In sprints off the stake-boats, Cambridge were just about touching 40 strokes in the first minute with Goldie two pips higher before the senior crew settled at 36. Last year, Cambridge were impressively fast

off the start, but not conditioned seemingly for a four and a half mile row. But every department is vital in the Boat Race, and Cambridge must pay considerable attention to their start before Saturday.

Earlier, Oxford paddled up and down the Boat Race course with Daniel Topolski, their coach, concentrating on minor points of technique such as polishing up a vital catch, the beginning of the stroke and the crew's timing.

At times, he had stroked Matt Thomas and his seven-man, George Livingston rowing by themselves with the rest of the crew redundant. It is all right having a weight advantage which Oxford will have on Saturday, but it can be counter-productive if the timing is not there.

TODAY'S OUTINGS: Both crews 9 and 1.30 from Putney.

Oxford late afternoon were very impressive in stake-boat starts against late after a sprightly outing up and down the Championship course.

BOXING

Busy time ahead for McGuigan

Barry McGuigan has announced plans for a hectic few months which should include two defences of his World Boxing Association world featherweight title. At a press conference in Dublin it was confirmed that he would defend against Fernando Sosa, of Argentina, in Las Vegas on June 23.

The winner of that bout will have to fight again within 90 days in a mandatory defence against Antonio Esparagoza, of Venezuela.

Mr Barney Eastwood, the champion's manager, described Sosa as a "very dangerous opponent," and said the fight contract had included a return match clause if McGuigan should not win. McGuigan should have met Sosa in Dublin last month but the Argentinian pulled out with a broken finger.

Now the Sosa fight will be part of a major bill which is being called "The Night of the Three Aces." The two other main fights will be a light-middleweight championship bout between Mike McCallum and Don Curry and a middle-weight match between Roberto Duran and Robbie Sims.

McGuigan's fight will be screened live on BBC-1 shortly after midnight on Tuesday June 24.

TENNIS

Girls to be centre of attraction

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

A few nimble, quick-witted and lucky schoolgirls could make a little history of their own during the hundredth Wimbledon championships, to be played from June 23 to July 6. Last year's successful introduction of a more flexible system for allocating teams of ball-boys and ball-girls to particular courts, plus the fact that the percentage of girls has doubled, makes it probable that for the first time ball-girls will work on the centre court.

A similar innovation occurred last year when one ball-girl appeared on court one. Ball-girls first worked at Wimbledon in 1977. The system then in use demanded 74 boys and 10 girls who were formed into teams and allocated to specific courts for the entire championships.

The hours of play have since been extended and last year an increased work force of 78 boys and 25 girls functioned in shifts.

The present system allocates teams of seven to the three main "show" courts -

centre, number one and number two - and teams of four to all other courts. Five additional teams permit the entire assembly of schoolchildren to work in shifts, so that nobody has to work excessively long hours and everyone has a chance to get on court. Two ball-boys or ball-girls are kept in reserve for emergencies.

Every year there is a new squad. Candidates are selected from schools in the Wimbledon area and begin training in May. Eventually the youngsters are formed into teams and the most efficient of these work the main courts in shifts. Efficiency is not a boys' prerogative and, to paraphrase the song, little girls get better every year. Some could make their mark at a Wimbledon that, otherwise, will primarily be a male celebration: the men's singles will be the only championship to reach the 100 mark.

ICE HOCKEY

ENGLAND: Netherlands; World championship; Pool B; Yugoslavia in France 6-5; East Germany at Netherlands 5-2.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Budd wins mile race

Zola Budd won the McVitie's mile race in Newcastle city centre in 4min 29.7sec yesterday evening (Pat Butcher writes).

The world cross-country champion, who was a late entry for security reasons, won by 80 metres from Christina Boxer and Julie-Anne Laughlin.

Better men

Yorkshire are to have their cricket clothing sponsored by Joshua Tolley and Son, the Leeds-based brewers, for the next three years.

Holding reins

Nick Skelton, runner-up last year, leads a six-strong British challenge at the Volvo World Cup showjumping final in Goteborg next month.

Wood through

Clare Wood, the top seed, from Sussex, beat Surrey's Kate Brasher 6-3, 6-2 to reach the final of the BWA spring tennis tournament at Queen's Club yesterday. Miss Wood, aged 18, will play 17-year-old Valda Lake in today's final.

GOLF

Inspired ladies go into semi-finals

By John Hennessy

Mary McKenna and Maureen Garner stand alone in carrying the flag for both amateur golf and the distaff side in the Sunningdale Four-somes after what Miss McKenna yesterday called: "A little bit of magic when we needed it."

They now meet Andrew Sherborne and David Ray, two young professionals, in the second of this morning's semi-finals. It is a match preceded by what may be a gladiatorial encounter between two pairs of more experienced professionals in Ron Rafferty and Roger Chapman and Warren Humphreys and Ian Mosey.

If Rafferty and Chapman have been recognised as favourites since the unexpected defeat of the holders, Sam Torrance and John O'Leary, they may have two hard rows to hoe today.

Yesterday Mrs. Garner and Miss McKenna, from Ireland North and South, combined to put out the other surviving woman in the sixth round, Carole Caldwell, who was

partnered by her husband Ian. The Caldwelles have rich golfing credentials, but their best is behind them.

Moreover, the Irish women, winners here in 1985, had announced the healthy state of their game by finishing first (McKenna) and second (Garner) in last week's Avia Four-somes. The pair were three up at the sixth and certain, it seemed, to go further ahead as the seventh as Caldwell faded his two iron shot into the heather and his wife had no option but to knock the ball back onto the fairway. Domestic harmony was fully restored, when Caldwell drilled a five iron five feet behind the flag and his wife holed the putt. A birdie at the next brought the Caldwelles back to only one down.

But that was the pinnacle of their success and Miss McKenna finished their off with a glorious four wood into the sixteenth green and her partner holed from 25 feet for a spectacular, match-winning birdie.

SQUASH RACKETS

Danger is looming for Briton

By Colin McQuillan

Lucy Soutter, the British champion, is seeded to meet Susan Devoy, the world champion, in the final of the HI-Tec British open championships, at Wembley next month but she faces by far the stronger half of the 64-woman draw, with Vicki Cardwell, the former world champion, looming in the third round.

Cardwell, of Australia, who won the British title in four successive years before retiring to start a family in 1983, aims to win a fifth at Wembley to launch a come-back to top squash. Her presence as an underrated twelfth seed in the bottom half of the draw, in company with Lisa Opie, Alison Cummings and Liz Irving makes progress to the final a daunting prospect for Miss Soutter.

By contrast, Miss Devoy has what her coach, Bryce Taylor, called a "dream draw" with the only serious challenge coming from the winner of a fascinating quarter-final clash between Marlene Le Moignan and Heather Wallace.

Britain's men's champion, Philip Kenyon, faces even less propitious possibilities than Miss Soutter. He is drawn to meet the undefeated world champion, Jahangir Khan, in the quarter-finals, assuming he can survive the combined attentions of Gamal El Amir, Hiddy Jahan and Chris Robertson along the way.

Gawain Briars has fallen into the least problematical section of the unusually talented 64-man draw. Although the early rounds offer him the new and rising Pakistani generation in the shape of Sohail Qaiser and Zarak Jahan, Briars could find himself with a quarter-final against Geoff Williams or Ross Thorne and every prospect of a semi-final against Ross Norman, the New Zealand world No 2. Britain's own rising generation features in an interesting tussle between David Lloyd, Martin Bodimeade and Cery Jones for the right to meet Greg Pollard, of Australia, and then Stuart Davenport, of New Zealand.

HI-TEC BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Seedeings: Men: 1. Jahangir Khan (Pak); 2. R. Norman (NZ); 3. S. Davenport (NZ); 4. G. Briars (Eng); 5. R. Thorne (Aus); 6. G. Pollard (Aus); 7. P. Kenyon (Eng); 8. C. Jones (Aus); 9. S. Davenport (NZ); 10. S. Davenport (NZ); 11. S. Davenport (NZ); 12. S. Davenport (NZ); 13. S. Davenport (NZ); 14. S. Davenport (NZ); 15. S. Davenport (NZ); 16. S. Davenport (NZ); 17. S. Davenport (NZ); 18. S. Davenport (NZ); 19. S. Davenport (NZ); 20. S. Davenport (NZ); 21. S. Davenport (NZ); 22. S. Davenport (NZ); 23. S. Davenport (NZ); 24. S. Davenport (NZ); 25. S. Davenport (NZ); 26. S. Davenport (NZ); 27. S. Davenport (NZ); 28. S. Davenport (NZ); 29. S. Davenport (NZ); 30. S. Davenport (NZ); 31. S. Davenport (NZ); 32. S. Davenport (NZ); 33. S. Davenport (NZ); 34. S. Davenport (NZ); 35. S. Davenport (NZ); 36. S. Davenport (NZ); 37. S. Davenport (NZ); 38. S. Davenport (NZ); 39. S. Davenport (NZ); 40. S. Davenport (NZ); 41. S. Davenport (NZ); 42. S. Davenport (NZ); 43. S. Davenport (NZ); 44. S. Davenport (NZ); 45. S. Davenport (NZ); 46. S. Davenport (NZ); 47. S. Davenport (NZ); 48. S. Davenport (NZ); 49. S. Davenport (NZ); 50. S. Davenport (NZ); 51. S. Davenport (NZ); 52. S. Davenport (NZ); 53. S. Davenport (NZ); 54. S. Davenport (NZ); 55. S. Davenport (NZ); 56. S. Davenport (NZ); 57. S. Davenport (NZ); 58. S. Davenport (NZ); 59. S. Davenport (NZ); 60. S. Davenport (NZ); 61. S. Davenport (NZ); 62. S. Davenport (NZ); 63. S. Davenport (NZ); 64. S. Davenport (NZ).

More squash, page 36

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